Daily Report

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Central Eurasia

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Central Eurasia

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Baltic Naval Commanders Discuss Cooperation

LD0601111995 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting of the Baltic naval commanders opened in Klaipeda today, ELTA reports. They discuss preparations for international naval exercises in the Baltic Sea [words indistinct], issues concerning the training of officers for service in the Navy, problems of sea surveillance, and the installation of joint systems.

The meeting is attended by Captain Gaidis Zeibots, commander of the Latvian Navy, Capt. Roland Leit, commander of the Estonian Navy, Lieutenant Capt. [as heard] Ants Toomepuu, commander of the Estonian border protection flotilla, Commodore Raimondas Baltuska, commander of the Lithuanian naval flotilla, and staff officers.

At a news conference, the commanders of the Baltic navies described their navies, their purpose, the selection, training, and education of seamen, and replied to questions by journalists. The meeting will go on for two days.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 6 Jan

LD0601063095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0621 GMT 6 Jan 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 6 TASS—The situation in and around Chechnya remains the principal topic in Russian newspapers.

IZVESTIYA carries an interview with Yuriy Baturin, assistant to the Russian president on national security affairs. Baturin said "it is still a long way before the situation in Chechnya will be normalised".

The outcome of the operation, Baturin believes, "will not be victorious for Chechen militants. But guerrilla warfare may be launched". Baturin is of the opinion that "at the close of the military operation, the means and ways to achieve objectives and the ability to apply the means should be scrutinised by Russia's Security Council. What is needed is a thourough and impartial analysis of the operation by the general staff with a report to the supreme commander-in-chief".

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA has prepared a special issue dealing with the developments in Chechnya. The newspaper runs the full text of speeches made at the press conference, which was held several days before the New Year holiday, by Pavel Grachev, Viktor Yerin and Sergey Stepashin. The newspaper's opinion is that the "topics touched upon at the press conference still remain pertinent up to now."

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA runs an interview with President Ruslan Aushev of the Ingush republic, who took an "extremely negative" view of the actions of Russian troops in Chechnya.

Touching upon the future of Chechnya, Aushev pointed out that "it is impossible to do away with the Chechen people. When everything will settle and come back to normal, nations and nationalities will continue to live side-by-side as they did before. For this to come true, one should not stir up hostility between them now or set people who profess different religions against one another. This may become a tragedy not only for Russia. I am an optimist. I believe that reason will triumph, the bitterness of losses will be blunted, and people will again turn to one another in a friendly manner".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries an analytical article by Valeriy Kucher who believes that "it was General Dudayev who put Moscow to the brink of war. In point of that, this man holds hostage his own people who are now armed and armed well. Most probably, Boris Yeltsin had no other choice but the one which he made.

"No president would allow a partitining of Russia, which if started would hardly end at the Chechnya borders.

"But the police action was carried out inadequately. It brought about bloodshed, loss of life and suffering of civilians. This happens right here on the territory of Russia, not in some far-off place".

IZVESTIYA publishes sensational information headlined "the Federal Counterintelligence Service (FCS) knows the name of Dmitriy Kholodov's assasin".

"This information was made available to the newspaper by a reliable source. According to the source, the traces of the crime lead to an airborne regiment stationed in Moscow's Sokolniki district.

"FCS chief Sergey Stepashin has sent detailed information on the circumstamses of the death of the MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETs journalist to Boris Yeltsin".

The newspaper also reports that, according to the source, a serviceman suspected of assassinating Kholodov was sent among other paratroopers of the regiment to Chechnya to take part in combat operations".

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA runs a message by Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow and all Russia on the occasion of Christmas which Russian Orthodox believers celebrate on January 7.

"Christmas is a feast of peace, unity and brotherhood," the message says.

TRUD writes that "the patriarch has expressed conviction that it is possible to achieve a peaceful solution to complex problems only provided there is national and social accord, good will, readiness for dialogue, and ability to go to reasonable agreements".

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Diplomat: Chechnya No Reason for Early NATO Expansion

LD0601123495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1113 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow Jan 6 (Interfax)—The situation in Chechnya gives no objective reasons to insist on NATO's early expansion eastward, a senior Russian Foreign Ministry official has said. He spoke in response to the human rights commissioner Sergey Kovalev's statement that the Chechen conflict could push East European countries towards NATO in search of security guarantees.

The diplomat recalled that Russia was against hasty and half- baked decisions to increase NATO's membership by the admission of Central and East European countries.

He said the "intention of East European countries to join NATO is not linked with any objective needs for greater security, but has a clearly political nature".

The Russian Foreign Ministry official said that the "Chechen conflict, like any other event involving the observance of human rights, is acquiring an international dimension".

It would be naive to think, the diplomat said, that the events in Chechnya will not be used by the advocates of NATO's expansion in their selfish interests. "Arguments and linkages may vary, though", he said.

EU Envoys Plan Joint Demarche To Moscow on Chechen Events

LD0501173895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 5 (INTERFAX)—On Thursday [5 January] afternoon Ambassadors of the European Union [EU] member-countries accredited to Moscow held a conference in order to work out a common "formula of address the Russian authorities" due to the events in Chechnya.

The French Embassy in Moscow reported to our Interfax correspondent on Thursday that heads of diplomatic missions of the EU member-countries had received "corresponding instructions" from their governments.

The source indicated that the conference of the ambassadors "was held following yesterday's statement of French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe on Chechnya." In particular, Juppe called on France's partners in the European Union to address Russian President Boris Yeltsin with a request to present explanations concerning actions of the Russian leadership in the Chechen republic.

UK's Hurd Calls For Political Agreement on Chechnya

LD0501181795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1604 GMT 5 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Polskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London January 5 TASS—British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd called for reaching a political agreement envisaging the preservation of the Chechen Republic within the Russian Federation. Chechnya is part of the Russian Federation, Douglas Hurd, touring countries of south Asia, said in an interview with the BBC.

Hurd also pointed to the need to stop hostilities and reduce to the minimum civilian casualties. In addition, organisations such as the International Red Cross Committee should be enabled to discharge their functions.

The British foreign secretary reported contacts of the European Union with Russia regarding developments in Chechnya. Hurd said British concern was made known to the European Union.

Chernomyrdin's UK Trip Jeopardized by Chechnya

MM0601100995 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Jan 95 p 4

[Report by Aleksandr Shalnev: "Will Chernomyrdin Get to London?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin will make an official visit to London at the beginning of March. The visit was originally scheduled for December-January, then for January-February, and now, finally, the dates can be considered more or less agreed. The dates—from 1 through 4 March—were suggested by the British side.

Although the dates have been set, understandably there are still doubts about whether the visit will take place. People in the British capital are far from certain about what the outcome of the current events in Chechnya will be, and consequently about the disposition of forces in the Russian political arena. Most commentators' forecasts boil down to the fact that it cannot be ruled out that Boris Yeltsin's days as Russian president are numbered, and if so there is no longer any certainty as to what post Chernomyrdin will be occupying by March.

Tajik Rebels Declare Holy War on Russia

LD0501173795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 5 (INTERFAX)—Commander of the Armed Forces of the opposition Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan Rizvon Sadirov has declared jihad (holy war) on Russian troops deployed in that country because of Moscow's aggression on the mainly-Moslem Chechen republic, Deputy Director of the Federal Border Service (FBS) General-Lieutenant Aleksandr Bespalov told Interfax on Thursday [5 January].

In a written address to his supporters, Sadirov described Russia as the common enemy of Islamic peoples and ordered to block the interim cease-fire agreement on the Afghan border.

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Field Commander Junadulo whose forces operate in Gorno-Badakhshan (eastern Tajikistan) has been ordered to switch from erratic operations to full-scale guerrilla warfare, according to FBS. This provides for massive mining operations, ambushes and terrorist attacks on regional leaders.

Attacks are also planned on a section of the Afghan border protected by Russian guards there.

European Commission Delays Signing Agreement With Russia

LD0501184595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1603 GMT 5 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Mineyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Brussels January 5 TASS—In connection with the disturbing events in Chechnya, the European Commission decided to put off the transfer to member countries of the European Union the text of the interim agreement on partnership and cooperation with Russia that was meant to be signed. Hans van den Broek, member of the European Commission responsible for international relations, stated this during hearings in the European Parliament on Thursday [5 January].

He said the European Commission is extremely concerned that this political problem was being dealt with in a military way. He noted that the afore-mentioned agreement contains obligations for the protection of human rights.

The interim agreement was worked out in order to enable the operation of commercial and economic articles of a greater agreement on partnership and cooperation between the European Union and Russia which was signed by President Boris Yeltsin on Kerkira Island in June and that requires a long procedure of ratification. The interim agreement has recently been initialled in Moscow.

Hans van den Broek told deputies that the Russian authorities had been notified of the stance of the commission. He noted that the European Union did not call in question Chechnya's being part of Russia. It is not a matter of a frontier conflict in the exact meaning of the word, he said.

Hans van den Broek believes that the termination of financial aid to Russia would most probably be unsuitable decision as it would affect specifically such areas as safety of nuclear plants. He noted that the European Union should support the continuation of economic reform in Russia, staying firm on human rights.

Chechnya Triggers Western 'Alarm' Over Fate of Investments

MM0501170595 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Jan 95 p 4

[Report by Yuriy Kovalenko: "In Response to the Fighting in Chechnya, the West Intends To Demand That the Kremlin Account for Credits Worth Millions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris—The careful neutrality in Western capitals as regards the war in Chechnya has gradually given way to concern and then to an impartial condemnation of the Russian leadership. At the same time, experts are not concealing their astonishment at the sequence of gross military mistakes committed by Russian strategists, who are unsuccessfully trying to suppress the rebels at the cost of a great deal of bloodshed.

At the same time, voices demanding explanations from Moscow about the use of credits worth millions granted by the West for peaceful purposes are growing louder. By and large, however, predictions about the further development of events in Chechnya and Russia as a whole are notable for their faintly apocalyptic notes.

One of the first Western figures to criticize Yeltsin for the use of military force in Chechnya was French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe. He also called on the European Union, which France now chairs, to demand explanations from the Russian president.

Chechnya, the head of the French foreign policy department stated, is Russia's internal matter. But at the recent Budapest OSCE summit, a "code of behavior" was signed by all countries, which envisages the observance by states of certain principles even in strictly internal matters.

Russia wants to be the partner of the new Europe, the minister went on to recall, and we have achieved progress in the matter of cooperation. Furthermore, we have granted big sums to Moscow... And if you want to be a reliable partner, you have to resort to talks and not use force.... But Moscow is possibly returning to the old methods.

All political parties, from right-wing to left-wing, and including the local communists, are condemning the military intervention in Chechnya. For their part, the "greens," headed by their leader Dominic Buane [name as transliterated], are preparing to hold a protest rally on Friday outside the Russian embassy building in Paris.

The OSCE permanent council will devote its sitting at ambassador level, which will assemble 12 January in Vienna, to the situation in Chechnya. A decision to send a fact-finding mission to Chechnya may be adopted there, even if Moscow refuses to send the relevant invitation to the OSCE. Certain politicians are suggesting that the OSCE, which Moscow is so fond of, should actually play a mediating role in settling the conflict.

The International Red Cross Committee has also condemned the Russian bombings. This organization, just like the UN Office of High Commissioner for Refugees, is coming up against serious obstacles generated by "administrative problems" in supplying humanitarian aid to the conflict zone. The Red Cross is assessing the

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number of Chechen refugees at 300,000, of which around one-third have left the territory of their republic.

Representatives of the International Red Cross Committee in Russia, who have had the opportunity to visit our captured soldiers, have confirmed the figure of 100 people named by the Chechens.

The pragmatic West is demonstrating not just concern in connection with the countless casualties of war and violations of human rights in Chechnya in general, but also growing alarm over the fate of its investments worth millions in the Russian economy. These investments, as well as Moscow's claim for a special role in Europe, AFP maintains, are giving the West grounds for demanding that Moscow account for the sums received.

Analyzing the military blunders of our command, Western experts are perhaps most alarmed of all at the lack of discipline and the scale of the decay of the Russian Army.

In addition to the possible loss of such vital credits, Paris observers are singling out the discredit of Moscow in the eyes of the world community, the risk of political isolation, and the speedy admission of East European countries to NATO in the endless row of negative foreign policy consequences for Russia resulting from the Chechen venture.

OSCE Offers Aid to Russia for Restoral of Chechen Economy

LD0501193195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1734 GMT 5 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 5 TASS—The Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) offered aid to Russia in its plans to restore the economy of Chechnya.

This proposal was conveyed today by the ambassadors of the countries of "the three" of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe at a meeting with Nikolay Afanasievskiy, deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation.

The ambassadors of Italy, Hungary and Switzerland to Russia were informed of the development of the situation in Chechnya and of the measures being taken by the Russian leadership to normalize the situation there as soon as possible, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin said in an interview with ITAR-TASS.

According to the Russian diplomat, representatives of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe "were interested both in humanitarian and legal aspects" of the armed conflict. They informed of the readiness of the organization to "assist Russia in the restoration of the economic infrastructure of Chechnya at a later stage."

"The three" group of the OSCE is formed by countries changing one another at the chairman's post in the organization. Italy was in the chair in 1994 and was replaced by Hungary in 1995. Switzerland will be the chairman in 1996.

Grigoriy Karasin also reported that Hungarian diplomat I. Dyarmati who heads the OSCE standing council, will possibly arrive in Moscow next week at the invitation of the Russian side.

Contacts with the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe on the Chechen conflict will be continued, the official representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

Cooperation Agreed on Aerial Survey of U.S. Bases

LD0601131195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1119 GMT 6 Jan 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Frolov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] St. Petersburg January 6 TASS—An airborne laboratory with Russian identification marks will make flights over U.S. once-supersecret military bases which are subject to conversion to civilian applications. An appropriate arrangement has been made between the St. Petersburg-based Leninets holding company and the American Rockwell International Company.

An IL-18D plane is preparing to leave here for Indiana where an international competition of projects announced by the Environment Monitoring Centre of the U.S. Armed Forces is to be held. A winner of the forthcoming tender, in which firms from many countries opted to participate, will get a multi-million contract for aerial survey operations which are part of a package of sophisticated and costly work to determine the possibility of bringing back to economic uses millions of acres of land which were occupied for years by military facilities.

However, according to rules existing in the country, a final "demilitarisation" of land may be recognised only after the issue of a certificate which would guarantee the absence of mines, shells and bombs in unknown subterranean depots.

The Americans were unable to find such facilities visually, although they know that those do exist, Vladimir Averkiyev, one of the directors of the project Poysk, told ITAR-TASS. An optimum way is to use airborne surveyors who would have available special onboard equipment to spot subterranean storages, their amount and location depth. Leninets experts have experience in similar flights, which inspires confidence in their success in the forthcoming tender.

According to the arrangement, the Russian experts will supply locating equipment while the American colleagues will provide software and computers.

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Political Issues

Security Council Discusses Chechnya

LD0601155095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1538 GMT 6 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 6 TASS—Gradual replacement of regular Army units with interior troopers and the police is the main task of the next stage in restoring constitutional order in Chechnya, concluded members of the Russian Security Council here today. The interior troops will help restore constitutional order in the region and form new power structures, Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko told correspondents.

The Security Council agreed with a proposal of the Federation council speaker to give all parents information about their sons staying in Chechnya via the military registration and enlistment offices.

In the words of Shumeyko, the president has approved of a letter of the parliament speakers on changing the regulations on the Russian Security Council, including permanent membership of Vladimir Shumeyko and Ivan Rybkin in the Council (they now have a deliberative vote).

Yeltsin Calls for Close Chechen Cooperation

LD0601095595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0937 GMT 6 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 6 Jan—At today's Security Council sitting, Russian President Boris Yeltsin assessed the present military confrontation in Chechnya as "a brief intermediate period" and declared that the republic must lead "a full-blooded life within Russia."

Boris Yeltsin called for close cooperation between a Chechen government of national renewal and federal ministries and departments to devise a system for the republic's economic life, specifically in such areas as supplying the population with food and consumer goods, and restoring the functioning of clinics, schools and public amenities.

Reaches 'Integrated Approach' Agreement

LD0601093395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0914 GMT 6 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 6 Jan—At today's sitting of the Security Council in the Kremlin, Russian President Boris Yeltsin stated that agreement has been reached on "an integrated approach toward resolving the Chechen crisis." It is a question, the head of state explained, of "a gradual cessation of military operations by the Defense Ministry and the handing over of the functions of ensuring law and order and the disarming of the illegal formations to the forces of the Interior Ministry."

"At today's Security Council sitting we must determine the day on which that will happen," the president stressed.

Wants 'Hard Facts' on Airstrikes

LD0601090295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0855 GMT 6 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 6 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has announced that he wants to get "hard facts" about airstrikes at Groznyy from the defence minister.

Yeltsin, who was speaking at the Security Council's meeting in the Kremlin today, admitted that society has shown "a dual attitude to this question".

"The statement of the president of Russia on the need to terminate the bombardment of the capital of Chechnya was heard the world over," Yeltsin recalled. "I have information that that decision was not fulfilled".

Kovalev Demands Meeting With Yeltsin on 'Lies'

LD0501192695 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1600 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Human rights plenipoteniary Sergey Kovalev returned to Moscow from Groznyy where he spent the past two weeks. He intends to seek a meeting with President Yeltsin. Kovalev said this at a meeting with journalists, which has just ended. Our correspondent reports:

[Pavel Shirov] The large hall in the IZVESTIYA newspaper building was packed. Even Kovalev himself had to push through the close ranks of journalists. Sergey Adamovich stated that he had come to look our leaders in the eyes and would return to Groznyy at the first opportunity. In order to realize his intention of meeting with the president, he continued, I had to endure a long conversation with Boris Yeltsin's aide Ilyushin:

[Kovalev] "Well, this involved all kinds of things. It was explained to me how I should talk to the president and what I should not say. I must say that I was not asking for this meeting—I was demanding it and I assume that I am entitled to it. I politely said I insist, and explained that it is up to the president to refuse if he wants to say that the question of the observance of human rights in Chechnya is of no concern to him."

[Shirov] Sergey Kovalev is most indignant, as he stated himself, about the flow of lies from official sources.

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[Kovalev] "I do not understand who lies—I want to ask this tomorrow at 1300, at my meeting with the president: What he had in mind when addressing the people? Did he forget to give the instruction that he publicly announced to the people, or was his instruction not carried out? Why is it necessary to give a new instruction not to bomb Groznyy? Will this new instruction be carried out? Is there really any one in charge in this country?"

[Shirov] Kovalev strongly doubts whether the president is receiving objective information on what is happening in Chechnya. For this reason he believes that now no demands for the president's resignation should be made even though Kovalev believes that the president bears some responsibility, if only, he added, because he picked such a team.

Directs Blame Toward Yeltsin

LD0501155695 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As we have already reported, Sergey Kovalev, the Russian Federation's commissioner for human rights, began a press conference in Moscow one hour ago. I understand that the conference has not yet ended. Nevertheless, Mayak correspondent Igor Chernyavskiy is on the line to the studio. Igor, what can you tell us?

[Chernyavskiy] Good day. Yes, you are right, the press conference is not yet over. I think it will go on for quite some time. But I have to say that I have not seen such a huge number of journalists for a long time—and not only journalists but also politicians. There are even some Krishna followers here. That once again shows that the situation in Chechnya worries everybody.

The gist of what Sergey Adamovich Kovalev said at the press conference boils down to the following. First, Kovalev believes—predicts—that Chechnya will no longer be part of Russia after what has happened. If bombs had not fallen on Groznyy, everything could have been different. Now there is no way back.

Second, negotiations—peace talks—are being held up by the Russian side, and Russian President Boris Yeltsin is partly to blame for this. Kovalev believes that Russian citizens, as a whole, are being greatly misled. Boris Yeltsin is also being misled, but not to the same extent. Therefore, he has to take some of the blame.

Sergey Adamovich Kovalev also believes that there are no Islamic armed formations in Chechnya. According to television reports, for instance, mojahedin were supposed to be living at a hotel there. But none were found. He cited similar examples.

In an hour's time, I should have a more detailed and succinct report of what Sergey Adamovich Kovalev said at the press conference, and then I'll get back to you. Thank you.

Describes Meeting With Yeltsin

LD0601141695 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1300 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent Aleksey Venediktov] The meeting was quite long and consisted in my monologue, Human Rights Commissioner Sergey Kovalev said about his meeting with President Yeltsin today. The gist of my monologue was that the bloodshed has to be stopped. The president mostly kept quiet, made some isolated remarks, and objected to what I was saying. Among other things, he disagreed when I said that he did not have enough information, Kovalev said. Yeltsin said that he was provided with ample information. Kovalev asked the president to halt the hostilities, at least for Christmas, to which the president replied that—and I quote Sergey Kovalev—it is too early for this.

I am in a skeptical mood, Kovalev said, but my visit here is not in vain. It is not yet finished, so let us not give up hope. I am going to meet parliamentary leaders, my namesake [new Justice Minister] Valentin Kovalev, possibly Vladimir Shumeyko, and some people in the key structures [silovyye struktury].

Aleksey Venediktov, for Ekho Moskvy.

[Announcer] I would like to add that Kovalev is planning to be back in Groznyy by 8 January. Also, according to Kovalev, the president has signed an edict dismissing Oleg Poptsov, chairman of the All-Russian Radio and TV company, from his post for broadcasting distorted information about developments in Chechnya.

Chechnya Seen To Damage Russian Image in West

LD0501164495 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1452 GMT 5 Jan 95

[Boris Kalyagin commentary; from "The World Today" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Good evening. The predictions for the future with which Russia has entered 1995 can hardly be described as optimistic. If one takes international affairs, then even those small successes which the new Russian state has managed to achieve in foreign policy have, in many ways, been cancelled out.

The cause of the trouble is the Chechen crisis. The main casualty has been the image of the young Russian democracy. It has become rather faded in the smoke and fires of Groznyy. And it was precisely with the object of protecting the inexperienced Russian democracy and its president that Western governments stated with rare unanimity that the Chechen conflict is the internal affair of the Russian Federation, adding, it is true, that it is based on a sensible restricted use of force. Alas, the constant bombardment and shelling of the peaceful population is forcing even those who supported Moscow's actions to reconsider their positions. Of late, the

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American public and official Washington have changed their attitude to the events in Chechnya. The United States has already on a number of occasions expressed concern at the growing number of casualties among the peaceful population. Other leading powers are reacting in the same way.

Do they realize in the West that it is a question of the territorial integrity of the Russian state? Yes, we reaffirm today, too, that no one doubts that Chechnya is part of the Russian Federation. However, they stress at the same time that the measures that Moscow is undertaking are a violation of human rights and run counter to the Final Act of the Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe [CSCE]. [passage omitted: quotes from U.S. media and academic sources; General Electric in an "ambiguous situation" over its contract with Russia for military aircraft engines]

True, the U.S. Government has stated that it will welcome President Yeltsin's decision to stop the bombing of the Chechen capital, if it is implemented. For the moment, a wait-and-see attitude is being adopted in relations. Everyone recalls that after the president's last promise not to bomb peaceful targets, the shelling of the town was merely intensified.

Yes, the offhand manner in which Moscow has embarked on the use of extreme force against the civilian population has alarmed many people in the world, first and foremost our neighbors, the former Warsaw Treaty allies—Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and also the Baltic states. Quite recently, at the meeting of the leaders of the CSCE member-countries, President Yeltsin tried to prevent NATO's expansion eastwards. However, by starting to carry out the military operation in Chechnya, Moscow has strengthened the positions of its opponents.

But, arguably, it may be Russia's relations with the Muslim world that will suffer most of all, for we are talking about 800 million people, of whom 18 million live on the territory of the Russian Federation. And, finally, feelings of mistrust may intensify within our own Commonwealth. Today it is even somehow embarrassing to speak about Moscow's special role in peacekeeping operations on the territory of the CIS.

And so, Chechnya has created a whole host of problems for Russia's foreign policy department. How can the Russian leadership get out of the isolation which it has driven itself into? The way out can be prompted from all sides—that is, talks. Appeals to Boris Yeltsin to begin them have come from Polish president Lech Walesa and Czech president Vaclav Havel. And of course, for a normal dialogue to begin, there must, at least, be a cease-fire. This in no way means a concession to Dudayev's separatist demands. If the Dudayev regime is triumphant, Russia's problems will not be reduced. But one cannot converse in the language of guns. At any rate, you cannot build a democratic society with them. I bid you farewell. All the best. [video shows footage of conflict in Chechnya, Clinton and Yeltsin speaking, U.S. Congress in sitting]

Soskovets on Chechnya Restoration Plan

LD0501154895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1505 GMT 5 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 5 TASS—Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets attaches great importance to "complete restoration of territorial bodies of federal and local government" when solving the Chechen crisis.

Addressing on Thursday [5 January] the Russian Government's emergency staff for the Chechen conflict, Soskovets said the first structures to be restored in Chechnya are those of the Russian Finance Ministry, Central Bank, social security agencies, pension funds, transport and communications services.

"This makes it possible to use more rapidly and effectively the financial and material resources allocated by Russia to Chechnya", the vice-premier stressed.

'Rebirth' Government on 'Inadvertent' Airstrikes

LD0501152995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1439 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 5—A statement by the government of national revival [rebirth government] of the Chechen Republic was received by the press service of the Russian Government on Thursday. Follows the full text of the statement relayed to ITAR-TASS:

"In accordance with decisions of the supreme political leadership of the Russian Federation, units of federal troops have been brought into the territory of the Chechen Republic to establish law and constitutional order. Large part of the population of the Chechen Republic regards this action as an enforced measure necessary in the concrete situation.

"A fascist regime has been installed in Chechnya by the Dudayev cleaque in the three years on its rule. Basic human rights are flouted. There is a monopoly on the freedom of speech and of the press. The Chechen people that was once united is now split into clans and in accordance with regions and religious beliefs. The economic foundation of the Chechen Republic is split into clannish mafia structures. Therefore the Chechen population views steps taken by the Russian supreme leadership as measures aimed at saving the multiethnic people of the Chechen Republic.

"However, in the recent days, for reasons that are hard to explain, many populated localities in Chechnya have been subjected to bombing strikes and bombardment from the ground as a result of which tens and hundreds

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of peaceful people were killed. This cannot but cause concern and protests of all people of Chechnya and of the government of national revival of the Chechen Republic.

"These inadvertent strikes or strikes by mistake at peaceful people can lead to a nation-wide protest with unpredictable consequences.

"In order to avoid a more scopeful catastrophy and involvement of broad masses of the Chechen people into confrontation we urge the military command of units of federal troops in Chechnya to take measures precluding air strikes and bombardment of populated localities in the Chechen Republic. We demand that facts of air strikes and bombardment be thoroughly investigated and that measures be taken to punish those responsible.

[signed] "S.N.Khadzhiyev, prime minister of the government of the national revival of the Chechen Republic

[dated] January 5,1995"

Group Prepares To Move to Groznyy

LD0501134695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1127 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow. January 5. (Interfax)—Chechen's national rebirth government is to move from Znamenskoye to Groznyy within the next few days to start its practical activity toward restoring peace to the republic.

This has been declared to Interfax by Alash Sayakhanov, the agriculture minister in the national rebirth cabinet, formed by Chechnya's Provisional Council, opposed to the Dzhokhar Dudayev's regime.

According to Sayakhanov, the national rebirth government comprises about 20 people, each of whom is a professional in his business. He stressed that the cabinet's prime task is to help the Chechen citizens, who have suffered over the years of Dudayev's rule and in the course of military actions on the territory of the republic.

As he believes, "there can be no doubt that the overwhelming majority of the Chechen population desires calm and orderly life since people are missing work, which is paid in full."

Sayakhanov also believes that the agricultural department he leads should get in touch with the neighboring North Caucasus republics and regions, whose help is so badly needed for Chechnya now when it is in trouble.

He is also certain that "even in the current conditions of complete ruin the national rebirth government will be able to meet its calling and restore peaceful and creative life."

Official Discussess Legal Plan

LD0501134195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1127 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 5 (Interfax)—All legislative acts of Dzhokhar Dudayev's regimes will be scrapped, and the Chechen Prosecutor-General's Office will be guided by Russian legislation in its work, Beck Baskhanov, Chechen's prosecutor- general, appointed by the national rebirth government of that republic, has declared in an exclusive interview with Interfax.

He explained that his office will get down to practical work right after Dudayev's gangs are forced out of Groznyy." The main task of the office, Baskhanov stressed, is to "ensure legality on the entire territory of Chechnya."

Asked if all personnel issues have been settled in the prosecutor's office, Baskhanov replied that the regional staffs "have been complete by as little as 30 percent so far, but we are sure that in the near future we will significantly reinforce them with scores of qualified lawyers, who have refused to cooperate with Dudayev's regime in principle."

Baskhanov said that he realized "how huge and complex the forthcoming job is to establish the degree of participation of many people in the bandit units." In this respect, Baskhanov expects active assistance from local residents, who, as he claims, "have got tired of living in the conditions of total lawlessness that have prevailed in Chechnya for more than three years."

Interim Government Starts Work in Groznyy

LD0501133095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1211 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 5 Jan—The Russian Government's press service forwarded the following report to ITAR- TASS today: "Over the last 24 hours, the subunits of Russian internal troops have continued to carry out combat tasks aimed at clearing Groznyy of gangs of fighters.

It has been noticed that enemy groups have been retreating from the Chechen capital to the west and northeast. In the northeastern sector, on the border with Dagestan, the military units of Russian internal troops that are sealing off the border engaged in fighting throughout the night. After combat helicopters of internal troops were used, the attackers retreated inside Chechnya.

The checkpoint of internal troops in the area of Grebennyy bridge (on the Chechen-Dagestan border—ITAR-TASS note) was subjected to a fierce attack by fighters from the direction of Chechnya. The battle raged for 90 minutes. The attack was repelled in interaction with subunits of OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] and border troops and with fire support from the air.

Instances of arms and ammunition being taken across the Terek river in boats have been noticed in the area of Grebennyy bridge.

Residents of some populated areas in northern Chechnya have begun enquiring how to surrender weapons and whether money will be paid for that.

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According to the reports received, Salambek Khadzhiyev [prime minister in the Interim Council] starts working in Groznyy as of today, and Nikolay Yegorov, presidential representative in the region, is arriving there, too."

Ingush Leader Urges Air Strike Investigation

MM0601104395 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 6 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Pavel Anokhin under the "ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI Investigation" rubric: "Did They Bomb Arshty or Not? ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI Correspondent's Attempts To Gain Clarification of This Situation From the Military Have Shed No Light"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ruslan Aushev, president of the Republic of Ingushetia, has made a statement in the mass media that at 1100 hours on 3 January 1995 Russian military aircraft launched a missile and bomb strike against apartments in the Ingush settlement of Arshty. Four women were killed, seven citizens were injured, and private homes were destroyed. In the president's opinion, the provocative and deliberate bombing of Ingush territory is evidence of the Russian army command's attempts to embroil the neighboring North Caucasian republics in the conflict with Chechnya.

"There is no limit to the indignation of Ingush inhabitants," the document says. "I demand that the barbaric actions against civilians cease. I protest resolutely against the actions of the Russian Armed Forces' leadership and insist that the culprits be called to account."

R. Aushev's statement was confirmed by State Duma Deputy Aleksandra Ochirova, who also demanded that the executive organize a judicial investigation including a visit to the scene of the event and that criminal proceedings be instituted.

That same day 350 inhabitants of the village left for Chechnya.

As we have managed to find out, the content of the documents was conveyed to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. According to one version, what happened in this instance was possibly a spontaneous [samoproizvolnyy] release of bombs.

The ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI editorial office decided to conduct its own journalistic investigation in an attempt to give the readers objective information without indulging in hysteria or an arbitrary interpretation of the facts. First we asked the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Information Directorate to comment. The department's regular staffers, despite their high military ranks, admitted immediately that they were in a difficult position and unanimously advised us to ask one of their leaders, Vladimir Kosarev. He, however, cited the Defense Ministry's refutation of this fact and advised us to try the government's Interim Information Center which, as the officer explained, according to Viktor Chernomyrdin's directive, has exclusive rights to information on events in Chechnya.

We phoned the Interim Information Center. Unfortunately its director, Valentin Sergeyev, was sick.

Valeriy Grishin, who is currently standing in for him, admitted that he has no information on the incident in question at the moment.

We turned to the Russian Air Force press service. Thank God we discovered a few telephones that worked. The first to reply was Lieutenant Colonel Viktor Beltsov: "I have no information, ring the government press center..." The second number that we tried was answered by an officer called Drobyshevskiy and he advised us to try to Defense Ministry's Information Directorate.

We resorted to the magical power of friendship and in a last hope of obtaining intelligible information on the situation we tried Mikhail Soroka, deputy commander in chief of the Russian Air Force: "There is only one thing I can say firmly: We have not made any air raids on population centers," he reported. "You should not think that the people in these planes are monsters. Everyone is aware that there are country people living in the villages. We only destroy weapon positions and armored vehicles and furthermore our strikes against targets are verified [kontroliruyutsya] by aerial photographs..."

According to Mikhail Soroka, Ruslan Aushev's statement is contentious from a purely legal standpoint because there is no border as such at the moment between Chechnya and Ingushetia.

"As for the story of the spontaneous release of bombs," the deputy commander in chief of the Air Force stressed, "that is ruled out. We rate such incidents as accidents and carry out special investigations into them. I think that behind the statement of R. Aushev and A. Ochirova there is the usual political speculation designed to fuel public tension."

Commenting on the situation which has developed in Ingushetia, Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the State Duma's Defense Committee, stated that in this instance what we have is an act of provocation by the military who are fanning the flames of war and are virtually ceasing to be subordinate to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Major General of Aviation Nikolay Bezborodov, a colleague of S. Yushenkov, believes that it makes no sense to debate whether the bombing took place or not right now. What is needed is to urgently send a commission to the scene of the event and conduct an investigation. It will be no problem for the specialists to determine the character and force of the explosions. And until that is done this dispute is just a way of avoiding the truth.

It should be noted that all the people involved in this investigation, and there were about 15 of them, were polite and tactful in their conversations with your

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ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent. How truthful they were you can judge for yourselves. However, it is worth noting that the truth is often sought where it does not exist.

'Source' Claims FCS Knows Kholodov's Killer

MM0501171795 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Igor Korolkov: "Federal Counterintelligence Service Knows Name of Dmitriy Kholodov's Killer"]

[FBIS Translated Text] IZVESTIYA received this information from a trustworthy source. According to his data the crime's trail leads to an airborne regiment stationed in Sokolniki in the capital.

The source also reported that Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] Director Sergey Stepashin had sent Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin detailed information about the circumstances of the MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS journalist's death. This occurred on the very eve of the Chechen events. The letter gives the surname of Kholodov's killer—an airborne regiment serviceman. This name is also known to the editorial office, but for understandable reasons we are not releasing it yet.

We telephoned the FCS Public Relations Center. When asked whether FCS Director Stepashin had sent Russian President Yeltsin a letter in connection with the investigation of the case of journalist Kholodov's murder, the center's deputy chief Vladimir Tomarovskiy replied:

"It cannot be ruled out that this is so. But I do not have all the information at my disposal and I cannot say anything on this subject."

We enquired at the president's office whether a letter signed by Stepashin and addressed to Yeltsin had been received. We were told: "There is no such letter on file" and we were advised to telephone central filing. No letter is recorded there either.

If this letter actually exists, the natural question arises: Why is the head of state involved if it is a question of a criminal offense? Is it not because the investigation team is in a tricky position and does not know what to do next? Mr. Tomarovskiy did indeed hint at a complication that has arisen. He observed that certain problems had arisen in the investigation of the case of the journalist's murder. Tomarovskiy refused to elaborate as to which problems specifically.

One final thing. The source claimed that the serviceman suspected of killing Kholodov was among the regiment's airborne troops who have been sent to the combat operations zone in Chechnya.

Having received this information, we find ourselves in a difficult position: Should we release it to readers or refrain from doing so, because it also cannot be excluded that this is a piece of cleverly conceived disinformation. In view of the fact that a fair amount of time has elapsed since the day the crime was committed and that the competent organs continue to keep the public in the dark despite widely publicized statements, we have decided to publish the information after all.

FSK Cites No Terrorist Acts Since Chechnya

LD0501181895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1553 GMT 5 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 5 TASS—Not a single act of terrorism has been committed in the Russian Federation in connection with bringing federal troops onto the territory of Chechnya, Aleksandr Mikhailov, head of the center of public relations of the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FSK], told ITAR-TASS here today.

Despite the rather quiet situation, the official representative of the special service said, the repeated threats by Dzhokhar Dudayev to "annihilate Russia by way of sending terrorists-kamikazes for exploding strategic objects of the country" are remaining the reason for carrying out careful preventive work by special services and interior troops.

The objects which are of interest to terrorists are not only being guarded with double strength but also operative actions are being made to insure their security, and their staff are specially instructed.

As for the security of civilians, for example, in means of transport, we prefer to "warn passengers tactfully about the need to be attentive and not advertise measures aimed at guarding them so as not to create panic", Aleksandr Mikhailov noted.

Nevertheless, during the period after bringing Russian troops in Chechnya the number of anonymous telephone calls in Russia about allegedly placed bombs has become six times more than before. As of now, this number comes to about 30 calls a day. All such signals are carefully checked by subunits of the Federal Counterintelligence Service and the Interior Ministry, and the "majority of them turn out to be absolutely false", Aleksandr Mikhailov pointed out.

The head of the center of public relations of the Federal Counterintelligence Service officially told ITAR-TASS that the talks which at present were being conducted by leaders of some Russian public associations with representatives of the Chechen diaspora on preventing possible terrorist acts "in no way testified to the strengthening of their threat".

The Chechen diaspora, for instance in Moscow, certainly has influence on their compatriots, and what is more, is on the whole in opposition to Dudayev's regime, Aleksandr Mikhailov said.

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However, he believes that such talks may be "helpful and not more than that". They serve mainly to strengthen a political rating of some civil leaders.

Grachev Notes Disatisfaction With Media

LD0601122095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1113 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 6 (Interfax)—Before the opening of the Security Council meeting, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said in the lobby that he was unsatisfied with the anti-Army campaign unleashed by the Russian media. Even some members of the Security Council make such statements that "represent the activities of the armed forces not in the most favorable light," he continued. "I will speak about it at the Security Council meeting today," he stated.

Ilyushin on TV Chief's Resignation

LD0601150995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1449 GMT 6 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS writer Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 6 TASS—"A decree on resignation of Russian TV Chairman Oleg Poptsov was not issued by the presidential administration today," first assistant to the Russian president Viktor Ilyushin told ITAR-TASS.

Asked whether such a decree may be issued in the immediate future, Ilyushin said "they should not attribute such a high degree of knowledgeableness to me".

Meanwhile, reports claiming the soonest resignation of Poptsov are stirring up passions in the press. Asked by ITAR-TASS about the reason for these reports, Poptsov cited Viktor Ilyushin as saying "someone wants to cause the president and the Russian TV to quarrel".

"The Russian Television has reflected the interests of Russian citizens and, thus, supported the popularly-elected president since the time it was formed. If the Russian TV quits to be the mouthpiece of public opinion, the president will lose the reliable support on compatriots", said Poptsov.

He supposed that the resignation may be caused by the Russian TV coverage of Chechen developments, and said "we cannot allow Chechnya to have consequences equal to the Chernobyl accident or a catastrophe for whole society".

FCS Collects Evidence on Payments to Media

LD0501165495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 5 (Interfax)—The Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] continues the collection of documents and witness reports on payment for publication of reports favorable to Dzhokhar Dudayev in the Russian media, a senior service official told Interfax.

He said that numerous radio messages had been intercepted with instructions to use money to bribe journalists and that the data on corruption in the mass media would shortly be made public.

The official said that evidence was available on specific recipients of Chechen money. He admitted, however, that exposure would hardly culminate in bringing the journalists to criminal justice which does not provide for punishment for corruption in the mass media. It could only result in condemnation by their colleagues and society, he said.

'Real Help' Promised for Media

LD0501151795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1422 GMT 5 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 5—Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray, who was appointed recently head of the government commission for information and analytical support for the handling of the situation in the Chechen Republic, is going to organise real help to journalists covering the situation in Chechnya.

Addressing ITAR-TASS journalists today, he assessed negatively the existing system of the government's work with information and said that "it was not only weakened, but ruined."

Seeking to help journalists working in the conflict zone, Shakhray is going to create with the help of the federal agency of government communication and information several communication centres in the conflict zone for the prompt and reliable transmission of materials, and to help journalists establish contacts with army units in Chechnya.

According to Shakhray, the obtaining of impartial information from "power structures", especially from the Russian Defence Ministry, continues to be the most serious problem. He said the government still did not have any information about casualties among servicemen and among the civilian population in Chechnya.

Shakhray did not conceal his intention to use the scientifically substantiated information policy for enlisting the support of public opinion for putting into effect his model of the settlement of the situation in Chechnya. Its key elements are the localisation of the role of the army, the creation in the Chechen Republic of institutions for the transition period and the preparation of free elections.

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Government Names Head of Information Center

LD0501162695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1510 GMT 5 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 5 Jan—Valeriy Grishin, the first deputy head of the Cabinet of Ministers' press office, will in the near future be dealing with coordinating the work of the temporary information center attached to the Russian Government for reporting on the situation in Chechnya. He replaced his boss Valentin Sergeyev in this post today. Sergeyev was admitted to hospital during Wednesday-Thursday night, with the diagnosis: "pre-infarct condition and progressive angina."

The government press office told ITAR-TASS today that the doctors treating Valentin Sergeyev had categorically forbidden him to return to work in the near future.

Valeriy Grishin, who headed a group from the government press office in Nazran, received bruises at the beginning of January during a trip to a combat zone.

Ostankino Aide Explains Reasons for Resignation

MM0601112395 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Jan 95 p 6

[Interview with Vsevolod Vilchek by Grigoriy Simanovich; place and date not given: "Vsevolod Vilchek: I Am Leaving Ostankino With a Heavy Heart"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vsevolod Vilchek, one of the most respected and competent people in the Ostankino Television Company, a man with a spotless reputation, and the creator and leader of its sociological service, is leaving the company for reasons of principle. The decision had already been made before the Chechen events. But the coverage of these events on the channel's news programs dispelled his last doubts. This is what he told our correspondent Grigoriy Simanovich.

[Vilchek] The rating of the Russian "Vesti" program during the Chechen crisis rose by 30-40 percent, and both editions of "Segodnya" on Independent Television almost doubled their audience. "Novosti," and now "Vremya," has kept its traditional audience, and elderly people with a low level of education and conservative political views are comprising an increasingly large proportion of it.

People do not believe Ostankino's news and Ostankino's commentaries on Chechnya—that is what the latest polls have shown. It is no wonder seeing that, for example, the account of the press conference held by the deputies returning from Chechnya was restricted to quotations from their report on Dudayev taking Russian soldiers hostage. It is no wonder, seeing that Nevzorov's reportage can be heard on the channel as if outside the powerful anti-military context created by the overwhelming majority of the mass media, and in unison with claims that the entire democratic press has been bribed by Dudayev.

The emphasis in Ostankino news programs is clearly being placed on the evil deeds of Dudayev's forces. A typical episode in one of the reports: Chechen women and children are blocking the road, and the correspondent, indignant, inquires "Where are the men, why are they hiding behind the backs of women and children?" As though it had never occurred to him that the men are at war....

The half-truths, lies, and disinformation being broadcast on Ostankino news airtime in the past few days have created an unfavorable psychological climate around the channel as a whole. And it is no accident that even the New Year program, according to our reports, was watched by only 15 percent of viewers on the first channel, and over 30 on Independent Television, for example.

You will ask, what about Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yakovlev, whose arrival in the leadership of the company was welcomed by the democratic public? I remember that I believed in him even more when, within a few weeks of his appointment, he silenced one of his deputies who had publicly proposed a struggle against cosmopolitanism and the affirmation of the Russian national idea as the pivot of Ostankino policy.

But soon things started to change. A sharp ban on "washing dirty linen in public" appeared. Unconcealed dissatisfaction greeted articles on corruption in the company, including my data about this. It became more and more difficult for data from our service to get into the press. And at the same time "oddities on air" started to appear. First a film where an emotional interview with Svetlana Alliluyeva rehabilitated Stalin. Then the "Palace Secrets of Kabul" tape, which was entirely defensive about the Afghan war. And our service recorded more and more demarches like this in respect of history. I believe that it is all happening with A. Yakovlev's tacit agreement.

I wrote and spoke of corruption in Ostankino. Now "Reklama-Holding" has appeared. Individual companies have fewer opportunities to pocket advertising money. But, according to my information from reliable sources, "Reklama-Holding" pays Ostankino an average of approximately $4,000 for one minute of advertising and receives around 12,000. Covert forms of advertising are continuing to flourish. I was intending to carry out some kind of a program to expose this type of advertising. This became known the next day. Following masses of anonymous phone calls involving threats and warnings, I considered it a good thing to give up my undertaking.

So-called public television is now being created on the basis of Ostankino. At its heart lies destatization and the

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introduction of joint-stock principles. And at first I supported the idea. Now I am ashamed of this. I understood that what is being created is purely and simply presidential television: The president will head the board of trustees and Rybkin will be his deputy. And in the context of what is happening it is clear that a powerful pro-presidential propaganda machine is being created, which is needed to justify a possible dictatorial regime and for the president's election campaign.

I leave Ostankino with a heavy heart. [Vilchek ends]

So, alas, there will be one irreproachable professional and decent person fewer in Ostankino. It is a painful loss. It is depressing that such cadre losses are occurring against the backdrop of losses on a greater scale, connected with the clear change of direction in Ostankino policy toward information slavery and political tendentiousness.

Economic Issues

December Data Shows Inflation Raise

MM0601121395 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Jan 95 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report "based on figures supplied by the Russian Federation Government Center for the Economic Situation Price Analysis and Forecasting Administration": "You Have To Eat So As Not To Be in Excruciating Pain"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The rate of inflation in December stood at 16.4 percent, appreciably more than the October price rise which everyone remembers and which was linked to the dramatic fluctuations in the ruble rate of exchange on the money market. (Then inflation stood at "just" 15.1 percent). Food prices continued to rise at accelerated rates, increasing by 21 percent in December. The rise in prices of nonfood commodities and paid consumer services were roughly identical, standing at 11.4 and 11.3 percent respectively. Consumer prices rose the most in the Central Region—by 22 percent—and the least in the Far East Region—by 11 percent.

In December, as in November and October, butter prices rose sharply; they have risen by 290 percent over the past three months, including by 90 percent in the past month. In late December 1 kg of butter in Russia cost an average of 15,327 rubles [R] (for comparison's sake in late September the price was R4,307). Apart from butter, of the foodstuffs in the survey in December prices of eggs and dairy produce rose the most—by 40 and 37 percent respectively. The price of meat and fish products, groats and pasta, and vegetables rose by 20-22 percent. The price of bread products, flour, and sugar rose less than other foods over the month—by 11-12 percent.

The difference in price movements for the main foodstuffs in December between individual economic regions stood at 12 percentage points. Food prices in the Volga-Vyatka and Central Regions rose the most—by 28 percent. While butter prices doubled overall in the Central Region, the price virtually trebled for Muscovites. Egg prices rose by 120 percent in Moscow, while the price of dairy produce rose by 50 percent, and the price of flour, vegetables, and fruit by 30 percent. At the same time the price levels in Moscow for 26 out of 57 surveyed foods are the highest in the Central Region. Thus, for instance, in late December one liter of milk in Moscow stores could be bought for R1,628 whereas the most expensive milk among the other surveyed cities in this region was sold in Tula at R1,656; 1 kg of vegetable oil cost R6,137 in Moscow and R5,212 in Kostroma, while 1 kg of rye-wheat bread cost R1,074 in Moscow and R798 in Tver.

The Far East Region is the indisputable leader in terms of the level of food prices. The cities in this region—Magadan, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, and Petrovpavlovsk-Kamchatskiy—are among the top 10 most expensive when it comes to half the surveyed goods. Thus, in Magadan stores 1 kg of beef cost R15,700 in late December while the average Russian price was R5,567, and a dozen eggs in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk cost R5,267 (R3,007).

Inflation Hits 16.4 Percent

LD0501132195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1255 GMT 5 Jan 95

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 5 TASS—Inflation hit 16.4 per cent in December, which is the second biggest rise last year (22 per cent in January), topping noticeably the October price hike (15.1 per cent) which was caused by sharp fluctuations of the dollar's rate on the currency market, says the report "Inflation Level in December 1994" issued by the Economic Situation Research Centre at the Russian Government.

December witnessed a considerable accelerating growth in foodstuff prices which jumped by 21 per cent by the end of the month. Price rises for non-edible goods and paid services to population were approximately the same.

Rates of price fluctuations for staple consumer goods and services differed by 11 percentage points (by five in November) between various economic regions of Russia.

The total change of consumer prices in Moscow substantially topped the Russian average, amounting to 25.6 per cent. Moscow residents witnessed in December sharp price hikes for foodstuffs—by 34 per cent, non-edible goods—by 15 per cent and paid services—by 23 per cent. Prices for staple goods and services rose by 18 per cent in St. Petersburg.

The average cost of the food basket out of 19 staple foodstuffs grew by 23.7 per cent, totalling 107,000 roubles per month.

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Military & Space Issues

Defense Program Supports PS-90A Plane Engine

LD0501171295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1127 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 5 (Interfax)—The Russian State Committee for Defense Industries has developed a program of support for the manufacture of the PS-90A engine to be installed in Il-96-300 and Tu-204 aircraft.

Committee department deputy chairman Yuriy Krasilnikov told Interfax that under the program a 200 billion rubles interest-free credit would be granted for production of 60 such engines in 1995 (just one was manufactured in 1994) and for improvement of the engine reliability and service life.

Several faults occurred in the engine last year. One of them resulted in a forced landing of a Tu-204 in Rostov-on-Don.

The shareholder meeting of the Permskiye Motory (Perm Engines) company at the end of 1994 decided to restructure the production and sell some of the company's social services worth 75 billion rubles.

State Forms Military-Technical Policy Group

MM0601105595 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 6 Jan 95 p 2

[Unattributed report under the rubric "In the Corridors of Power": "New Military Structure"]

[FBIS Translated Text] How to most fully safeguard the state's interests in the sphere of military-technical cooperation between Russia and foreign countries and how to steer the conversion of production capacities in the military-industrial complex in a controlable direction—that is what the Russian Federation State Committee for Military-Technical Policy formed in accordance with the president's edict and accountable to him is to be answerable to the president for. The Interdepartmental Commission for Military-Technical Cooperation Between Russia and Foreign Countries is to be abolished as a result of this, and its functions are to be transferred to the newly created structure.

Crew Continues Space Station Research

LD0601104995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1021 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mission Control Centre January 6 TASS—Russian cosmonauts Aleksandr Viktorenko, Yelena Kondakova and Valeriy Polyakov go ahead with research and experiments on board the orbital complex Mir.

The scientific part of the flight programme in the first week of 1995 included astrophysical, geophysical and medical experiments.

Under a plan for extra-atmospheric astronomical research by means of the orbital observatory roentgen, the cosmonauts carried out a working session of observations of X-ray sources in the central part of the galaxy.

With a view to further studying the inter-connection between physical processes in the universe and on earth, the cosmonauts performed several series of experiments to register solar flares and changes in spatial-and-energy characteristics of cosmic-ray radiation.

Under the supervision of physician Valeriy Polyakov, the mission commander and the flight engineer underwent a comprehensive examination of the cardiovascular system, including that with the use of the pneumo-vacuum suit Chibis which simulates terrestrial gravitation.

According to reports from orbit and telemetry data, the flight is proceeding normally. The cosmonauts are in good health.

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Federal Assembly

Duma Deputies To Convene Emergency Session on Chechnya

LD0501153695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 5 (Interfax)—Signatures of Russian State Duma members have been collected to convene an emergency session of the lower house of parliament to discuss the situation in Chechnya.

Interfax was told by the office of the co-chairman of the Democratic Russia party Lev Ponomarev that by mid-Thursday 92 signatures were collected while under Duma regulations the convocation of an extraordinary session at the initiative of one group requires the support of 90 deputies.

The lists of signatures will be submitted to the speaker Ivan Rybkin.

Ponomarev expects the session to be held Sunday or Monday.

The idea of an early session was supported mostly by members of Russia's Choice, Yabloko, the December 12 liberal-democratic union.

Not a single Liberal-Democrat signed the call. The group believes deputies should not interfere in the actions of executive bodies in Chechnya.

Security Chief Denies Duma Member Vlasov's Claims

LD0501182295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 5 (INTERFAX)—The Chief of the Russian Main Security Department Mikhail Barsukov has officially declared that neither his people, nor the presidential security service have anything to do with the alleged attempt to assassinate the Duma member Yuriy Vlasov.

At the Duma Interfax was told an appropriate letter was sent to speaker Ivan Rybkin.

The letter was prompted by Vlasov's claims circulated by the media that the Main Security Department tried to kill him by organizing a car accident.

Barsukov said the accusations contain no concrete facts about the incident or the sides involved. Vlasov only named the licence numbers of two cars one of which he claims staged the accident. Barsukov said that neither his nor the presidential service have cars with the licence numbers named by Vlasov.

Regional Affairs

Federal Troops Cite Less Intensive Clashes

LD0401125595 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 4 Jan 95

[Correspondent Vladimir Paskov report "from the press service of the Russian Federation Government"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report from the federal troops' command in Groznyy, the situation in the town and its environs has been changing radically during last night and this morning. The number of clashes has fallen and they have become less intensive. Illegal armed formations are active only in small groups, and mainly in the town center.

Federal troops are continuing measures to clear Groznyy rayons of fighters, and to restore constitutional law and order.

According to information received from the federal troops' headquarters in Groznyy, a column of 150 motor vehicles carrying cargo, and accompanied by 10 tanks, left the town in a southerly direction yesterday evening. The column was smashed by artillery and Grad salvo fire from federal troops 12 km from the town. The operation was completed by midnight.

According to information from military intelligence, the exodus of fighters from Groznyy is continuing in a southerly and southeasterly direction. The main routes pass through Shali, Serzhen-Yurt, Benoy-Vedeno, and also Shali, Kirov-Yurt, Makhkety.

According to military intelligence information, there are large groups of fighters in the populated areas of Assinovskaya—up to 400 people, reinforced by tanks and armored personnel carriers; Sernovodsk—up to 200 people; Davydenko—200 people.

A camp and training center with up to 2,000 people is situated in the former rest and recreation center in Benoy, 60 km southeast of Groznyy. All these detachments are reservists belonging to Groznyy's leader, but many of the fighters are leaving their bases and hiding in neighboring villages.

Downtown Groznyy Reportedly Remains Under Chechen Control

LD0601143295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1426 GMT 6 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy January 6 TASS—Downtown Groznyy remained under control of Chechen volunteers this afternoon. Tank gun, Grad and Uragan launcher fire was reported from the Groznyy outskirts. The Bamut settlement, 60 km west of the city, was put under artillery shelling by the federal troops.

Bearing in mind the bridge via the Argun River was broken near the Chishki settlement, it is hard for refugees to leave the city. The Chechen volunteers do not plan to leave the city.

Russians Using New Tactics To Cleanse Groznyy

LD0401153995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1457 GMT 5 Jan 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok, Jan 4 (Interfax)—Last night leader of Dudayev's Security Department Sultan

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Geliskhanov addressed representatives of Russian military command in Groznyy with a proposal to cease fire, the Mozdok-based press service of the Russian Interior Ministry reported to Interfax.

There has been no losses among the army units in Groznyy over the previous night. "As many as 20 armored vehicles and a column made up of tens of trucks on which Dudayev's fighters tried to transport belongings robbed in Groznyy were destroyed by air strikes," the press center reports.

According to the military intelligence service, it is not ruled out that Dzhokhar Dudayev is not in the presidential palace now. As many as 8 tanks are dug in around the building which is not being assaulted now. The command of Russian detachments is negotiating with the armed formations, which are staying in the palace, about surrender.

A military source in Mozdok underlines that the Russian forces started to use a new tactics: they use small mobile groups while cleansing Groznyy "from illegal armed formations.

The press service of the interior forces reports that on Thursday the government of Chechnya's national revival headed by Salambek Khadzhiyev, former USSR minister of oil industry, is expected to come to Groznyy and to start its work. This government is made up of adversaries of Dudayev's regime.

High-Ranking Official: Bombing of Groznyy Halted 0000 5 Jan

LD0501174695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok, Jan 5 (INTERFAX)—In keeping with the orders of the Supreme Commander, President Boris Yeltsin "the bombing of military targets in Groznyy stopped at 00:00 January 5," a high-ranking Russian officer in Mozdok told Interfax Thursday.

He said "the federal aviation is widely used outside the Chechen capital to support land forces." The main targets of air attacks, according to the officer, "are the strongholds, personnel and armored vehicles of the Dudayev regime."

He said the air force has concentrated its attacks on the columns leaving Groznyy to South Chechnya. "However, aviation cannot function at its full capacity due to very poor weather conditions," he said.

Chechen National Renaissance Government Statement To Moscow

LD0501175195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 5 (INTERFAX)—The press service of the Russian Government has received a statement of the government of the National Renaissance of the Chechen Republic. It says that units of federal troops entered "the territory of the Chechen Republic to establish legality and the Constitutional order in line with the decisions of the high political leadership of the Russian Federation. Most people in the Chechen Republic consider this act as a forced measure which is necessary in the concrete situation.

Over three years of its rule, the Dudayev clique established a fascist regime in Chechnya. Elementary human rights are being trampled upon, the freedom of the press and speech is monopolized. The interests of the once united Chechen people have been caused to collide in regional, religious and other planes. The economic background of the Chechen Republic has been split and divided between the clan and mafia structures. That is why the Chechen population considers the steps being taken by the high leadership of the Russian Federation as measures aimed at saving the multinational people of the Chechen Republic.

However, lately, due to difficult-to-understand reasons, bombings and shellings hit many settlements of Chechnya as a result of which dozens and hundreds of innocent civilians die. This causes concern and the protest of citizens of Chechnya and of the government of the National Renaissance of the Chechen Republic.

Such incidental or erroneous shellings of peaceful civilians may cause a nationwide protest and lead to unpredictable consequences.

To avoid a large-scale catastrophe and the involvement in the confrontation of broad masses of people in Chechnya we appeal to the military command of the federal troops in Chechnya to take measures which would exclude bombings of settlements in the Chechen Republic. We demand that facts of bombardment be thoroughly investigated and adequate measures be taken in relation to direct culprits," says the statement of the National Renaissance Government of the Chechen Republic, made public by the press service of the Russian government.

Firing Continues in Groznyy; Presidential Palace Bombed

LD0501195295 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1635 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer Yelena Berezovskaya] Quite unexpectedly for us, for Mayak, our correspondent, Sergey Omelchenko, has just rung through to the studio from Groznyy. He has the latest news. Sergey:

[Omelchenko] I hear you, Yelena.

[Berezovskaya] Go ahead, please.

[Omelchenko] You won't just be hearing me. I have Grigoriy Brynza, correspondent for the Ostankino television company and Stavropol television, here with me. We have just been into Groznyy together. Now we have

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returned and found an opportunity to ring Mayak. Since this morning Groznyy has not only fired back, with all the weapons at its disposal, at Russian forces besieging the city from all sides, but armed Chechen detachments in various parts of the city—in spite of artillery strikes and bombing raids—have continued to isolate Russian soldiers, servicemen, in pockets and drive them out.

War, as you know, is a dirty and mean business. Some people still believe that a local operation to confiscate weapons from illegal formations is taking place in Groznyy. But the Russian soldiers whom we met in the basement of the presidential palace, the ones who were arrested or wounded, have a somewhat different version of events. They are actually quite young lads, 19-year olds. They were told that they had come to Groznyy merely to form an armed cordon around it. But for some reason they were sent into the city, deployed in the attack that failed today.

[Berezovskaya] Sergey, tell me please, have they bombed?

[Omelchenko] Villages as well have been subjected to airstrikes today—Chechen-Aul [approx 1 km southeast of Groznyy], Shali [10 km southeast of Groznyy], Chishki [approx 20 km south of Groznyy] and Bomut [approx 20 km southwest of Groznyy].

Firing continues without stopping even for a moment in the town itself, which is at present almost fully controlled by Dzhokhar Dudayev's armed subunits. The streets are raked by sniper fire from one side then the other. There have been no fresh attempts today to enter the town by troops from the Russian Interior Ministry or Defense Ministry. Dudayev units in the railway station district have surrounded several units of Russian military hardware with their crews which were left behind in the town after the failed assault. The Presidential Palace, which was deliberately bombed today and came under fire, is guarded by Dudayev supporters. There are wounded and Russian soldiers taken prisoner in the cellar. Hello?

[Berezovskaya] Go on, we can hear you.

[Omelchenko] Here in Chechnya many Russian military men, armed Chechens and ordinary civilians think that this war which is going on now is a dead-end which the politicians have got into and a way out of it needs to be found as soon as possible, not by confrontation and one side or the other destroying people, but by the renewal of talks. Grigoriy Brynza and Sergey Omelchenko reporting from Chechnya, from Groznyy.

[Berezovskaya] I thank the correspondents who have worked for the Mayak Panorama program today and apologize for the quality of communications with Groznyy. You understand, respected listeners, that the president's decree has been broken and Groznyy has been bombed.

Head of Chechen National Revival Government Interviewed

LD0501191295 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 5 Jan 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] The government press service has reported that Salambek Khadzhiyev, the prime minister of the national revival government in Chechnya, began his work in Groznyy today. Salambek Khadzhiyev gave an interview today to our correspondent Valeriy Skvortsov.

[Begin recording] [Skvortsov] How long do you expect to work as head of the provisional government, and when will elections be held?

[Khadzhiyev] I am planning to work in this capacity until the elections, and how soon the elections will be—this will depend on how quickly the situation returns to normal. When we manage to return life back to normal, at least to some extent, when at least the first signs of normal, civilized life begin to appear, we are in favor of holding the elections immediately after that.

[Skvortsov] Can you give us any dates by which the situation could settle down on the whole and the mass hostilities could cease?

[Khadzhiyev] I think the shortest time in which the situation could return to normal is five to six months and the longest is a year and a half, because elections in Russia will be held in a year and a half when we would have to hold our elections in any case, we would not be able to postpone them any further. So, an election will be held in the Chechen Republic between six and 18 months from now. [end recording]

Stepashin: Talks of Partisan War in Chechnya 'Bluff'

LD0501202095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1922 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok, Jan 5 (INTERFAX)—On Thursday [5 January] Vice Premier of the Russian government Nikolay Yegorov, plenipotentiary representative of the Russian president in the Chechen Republic, the FSK [Federal Counterintelligence Service] Director Sergey Stepashin, and Lieutenant General Anatoliy Kvashnin visited Groznyy where they met with "the command of the corps which is fulfilling the task to take the city under its control," a military source in Mozdok reported to Interfax.

In his words, the Russian forces "have practically blocked Groznyy's center, the vanguard detachments are near the central square of the city where the presidential palace is situated. Dudayev's 13 tanks are dug in on the square and around the palace. Chechen snipers and grenade throwers have occupied positions on the roofs of the nearby buildings.

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Representatives of the command reported to Yegorov, Stepashin, and Kvashnin that the Grad rocket launchers, which subject to shelling Russian detachments, "are placed within living quarters and this makes counterfire difficult." In addition, it was reported earlier that "there are many hirelings in the formations loyal to Dudayev who deliberately put civil citizens under fire."

In a conversation with journalists Stepashin expressed opinion that "the talks about an endless partisan war in Chechnya are nothing more but bluff and tales." "There will never be a wide- scale partisan war here," Stepashin underlined that declared that as many as 8 of 11 Chechnya's regions "give their backing to the actions of the Russian Armed Forces."

"Those who will try to resist will be destroyed," Stepashin said.

Yegorov expressed his support to the decisions of the Russian president and government on Chechnya and declared: "Today our major task in Chechnya is to break the people's psychology. Many people have not worked here for three years and got a piece of bread for themselves by means of robbery with sub-machine guns in their hands. It is necessary to force these people to earn in order to live as ordinary people."

Regions Disorderly Adoption of Charters Arouses Fears

LD0501205995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1922 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 5 (INTERFAX)—"Uncontrolled and disorderly adoption of their own charters by the regions can pose threat to the integrity of the Russian Federation, Leonid Smirnyagin, member of the presidential council and leader of the regional policy department under the presidential analytical center, declared to Interfax on Thursday [5 January].

In his words, "the regions started to actively pursue their local interests and to adopt documents which do not correspond to the RF Constitution under the cover of the Chechen events." As many as 10 territories have adopted their own charters over the last two weeks. All of them, Smirnyagin said, have been adopted in violation of the general procedure, have not been coordinated with the Constitutional Court, and have not been discussed at referendums in the regions.

The charters adopted in the Khanty-Mansivsk and Yamalo-Nenets autonomous districts arouse special concern of the presidential administration. Smirnyagin said that they do not only restrict action of the federal decrees on their territory but "even do not mention the Tyumen region."

It is necessary to urgently impose moratorium on them, Smirnyagin declared.

Meeting Held With Chechens To Discuss Burial of Soldiers

LD0601073895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0709 GMT 6 Jan 95

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 6 January—Talks took place in Groznyy on Thursday [5 January] between representatives of the federal troops command and the Chechen forces. The ITAR-TASS correspondent discovered today that the main topic was conditions for the collection of the bodies of dead servicemen from the streets of the city and their identification and burial. The results of the talks are not yet known.

Dudayev's entourage still do not think that the opportunities for resolving the conflict have been exhausted. Dudayev's adviser Ramazan Dzhofarov said this to the ITAR-TASS correspondent and he stressed that: "The Russian leaders must, finally, understand that the Chechen problem cannot be solved by military means."

Chechnya Vice President Cited on Russian POW's, Dudayev

MK0601081995 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 6 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Yuriy Golotyuk under the "War" rubric: "Dudayev Is Still in Control of Groznyy. Russian and Chechen Troops Have Encircled Each Other"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Government was clearly in too much of a hurry with its statement about a peaceful entry of troops into Groznyy on 5 January. That Russian forces were present in the city was signaled yesterday only by the smoke rising above the tanks burning near the railroad station, and by artillery fire. Practically Groznyy's entire territory was controlled by Chechen militiamen who were attacking what remained of the Russian subunits entrenched on Pervomayskaya Street. Despite President Yeltsin's assurances, Russian planes made a number of missile and bomb strikes at the Chechen capital on the morning of 5 January. Bombing of some other population centers is also continuing. The artillery shelling of the city was going on throughout the day.

Yesterday, a big part of the Russian grouping which had been surrounded near the railroad station surrendered. Your SEGODNYA correspondent managed to learn that among the 18 servicemen who surrendered yesterday are Lieutenant Maksim Yashchenko and privates Yevgeniy Klementyev (born in 1973) and Andrey Bulkin (born in 1975).

According to Chechnya Vice President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, with whom your SEGODNYA correspondent met in the presidential palace bunker, by noon of 5 January all the Russian troop groupings within the city

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limits had been "localized and are virtually in semi-captivity." Mr. Yandarbiyev assured your SEGODNYA correspondent that Chechens are going to treat those who surrendered humanely, "in line with international norms." According to the Chechnya vice president, "Dudayev is still on the job and is directing the operation to defend Groznyy" although Mr. Yandarbiyev declined to name the precise location of the Chechen Republic's president, referring to secrecy considerations.

Chechen Official Says Negotiations Still Possible

LD0601093595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0916 GMT 6 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoiko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nazran January 6 TASS—Possibilities for negotiations for peaceful settlement in Chechnya still exist, believes said-Ahmad Azizov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Elders in Chechnya. The level and framework of these negotiations can be different, he said in an interview to ITAR-TASS. Azizov said he was ready to meet with the speaker of the Russian State Duma or "with any other authoritative person of the same rank" who will deem it possible to participate in such a meeting. Azizov believes a meeting of this kind "can be a step to negotiations at a higher level".

Federal Forces Continue Advance Toward Central Groznyy

LD0601104595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1012 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 6 ITAR-TASS—The press service of the Russian Government delivered the following report to ITAR-TASS today:

"A report of the command of the federal forces in the Chechen republic said that on Friday [6 January] morning, a number of units and formations of the Russian Army continued to advance along the eastern bank of the River Sunzha towards the centre of Groznyy. [no closing quotation marks as received]

The troops have occupied the building of the former institute of petrochemistry located in the immediate proximity to the presidential palace. Under Dudayev, the building was used as a military college.

"All the other units and formations of Russian troops continue to act as planned by the command".

Chechnya: Rights Champion Kovalev Censures Grachev

MM0601094595 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6-9 Jan 95 p 2

["Reportage" by Aleksandr Yevtushenko: "About the Bodies of Russian Soldiers Lying in the Streets of Groznyy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy-Nazran—"Today I am leaving for Moscow for a short while in order to somehow prevent a repeat storming of Groznyy and to try to cut off the flow of lies about the events in Chechnya that the leaders of the Russian Federation are raining down upon the country. The systematic killing of an entire people is being carried out there, in Chechnya. That scoundrel [merzavetzs] Grachev has become an inveterate liar and wants to evade responsibility, sheltering behind other people's lives. Stepashin, head of the FCS [Federal Counterintelligence Service], is on a par with him," Sergey Kovalev told me in Nazran.

"This is some sort of horror," Kovalev said to me next. "For the umpteenth day dozens, if not hundreds, of dead Russian soldiers are simply lying in the city streets. But to my request to cease firing and to remove the dead troops they have responded with new shelling and new bombing raids."

Evidently tired of bombing Groznyy, the air force has shifted its strikes to other Chechen cities. Shali has probably had it worse than others. If only they had been bombing the location of a tank regiment. But ground-attack aircraft have headed time after time for a little suburban market and hit cars. Here alone, according to the data of the Ingush Ministry for Emergency Situations, over 40 people have died in these raids. The air raid on Arshty—an Ingush settlement in Sunzhenskiy Rayon—is totally incomprehensible.

"The Russian military are clearly endeavoring to draw Ingushetia into this war as well," Khamzat Bekov, Ingush minister for emergency situations, told me. "If they succeed in this, the next will be Dagestan, Kabardino-Balkaria...."

Sergey Shoygu, Russian minister for emergency situations, arrived in Ingushetia yesterday. He at once met with his Ingush colleagues and set about organizing humanitarian assistance. According to a spokesman for the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations, humanitarian aid convoys are being formed only with the participation of the Ingush leadership and are heading for Groznyy at their own risk.

"Are the Russian military hindering the passage of humanitarian aid convoys," I asked Bekov.

"No, they are not hindering them. They are simply bombing them," he replied.

Regions Seen Using Chechnya To Pressure Federal Authorities

MK0601083695 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 6 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Yelena Tregubova in the "Initiative" column: "The Regions Demand the Convocation of the Council of Republic Heads"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday in Cheboksary a meeting was held by leaders of Russian Federation republics and members of the Accord for the Fatherland public committee, in which the following participated: Nikolay Fedorov, president of Chuvashia; Murtaza Rakhimov, president of Bashkiria [Bashkortostan]; Viktor Stepanov, chairman of the Karelian Government; Nikolay Biryukov, chairman of the Mordovian Supreme Soviet; Vasiliy Likhachev, vice president of Tataria [Tatarstan]; Vladislav Zotin, president of Mariy-El; Valentin Tubylov, chairman of the Udmurtian Supreme Soviet; and Yuriy Skokov, chairman of the Accord for the Fatherland committee. The participants said in a resolution that they condemn the fighting in Chechnya and demand "that the senseless fratricidal war be stopped immediately." It appears however that the Chechen crisis has become a convenient excuse for Yuriy Skokov and a number of regional leaders to bring pressure to bear on the tottering presidential power. The regional heads demanded that the activity of the Council of Republic Heads be resumed "immediately" and they "invited" the federal authorities to take part in its work. The regions threaten to "raise the question of responsibility by leaders at all levels for failure to implement their election pledges," hinting that the "guests'" fate will be unenviable. At the same time they proclaimed that "one major current task is the organization of a Congress of the Peoples of Russia," without explaining what powers they would like this body to have. The participation of Yuriy Skokov, former Security Council secretary who now heads the Commodity Producers Federation, in the "Cheboksary initiative" may indicate the character of changes in the present political regime proposed by some regional leaders.

Leningradskaya Nuclear Power Unit To Be Restored 6 Jan

LD0501212895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1922 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 5 (INTERFAX)—One of the reactors of the Leningradskaya nuclear power stations halted due to an emergency on January 4 will be brought on-line Friday, the state-run concern Rosenergoatom told Interfax.

According to Rosenergoatom press service, one of the distribution panels failed due to a short-cut. The accident happened on a high voltage line instead of the station's circuits and a protection system was activated. As a result, the reactor was halted.

Rosenergoatom said the reactor was in full order and no repairs were made. The accident was classified as zero level on the international nuclear event scale and could not lead to any radioactive contamination of the environment.

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International Affairs

Marchuk Views Relations with Russia

MM0501130395 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by correspondent Viktor Drozd: "Last Touches to Treaty"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—"We have lagged hopelessly behind in forming good-neighborly relations with Russia," Ukrainian Government First Vice Premier Yevhen Marchuk noted at a press conference in Kiev.

The search for a mutually advantageous rapprochement, Y. Marchuk said, is proceeding even now without applause. But Ukraine must take the blame for the delay. After all, it is scarcely possible to find another example in the world of a situation like the one in which Ukraine, one of the participants in the negotiations process, owing Russia over $5 billion and having not yet settled, is again asking for deliveries of energy carriers. And Russia is responding.

Nonetheless, Y. Marchuk noted, the political treaty between Ukraine and Russia is almost ready for signing. Moreover, a further 14 documents have been initialed, including documents on cooperation between the border oblasts (it will be signed in Kharkov 27 January), on the avoidance of dual taxation, and on environmental conservation. A further seven agreements are in the pipeline.

EU, Kiev Work To 'Speed Up' Integration

LD0501204395 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1615 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received]—"The aim of our visit is in practice to speed up Ukraine's integration into the European Union." Hans Peter Kleiberg, deputy political director of Germany's Foreign Ministry, said at Borispol airport on his arrival in Kiev within a European Union mission. The mission, in Kiev for consultations on the prospects for cooperation between Ukraine and that organization, also includes Alain Dejammet, deputy secretary general of the general directorate of political affairs and security at France's Foreign Affairs Ministry, and Jorge Dezcallar, director general of foreign policy at the Spanish Foreign Ministry.

Kleiberg said the issues under discussion would range from economic reforms in Ukraine and the role of Ukraine in the European security structure after the former's accession to NPT [Nonproliferation Treaty] to Ukraine's relations with its neighbors and particularly with Russia. Ukraine, Kleiberg added, could hold consultations with Russia so that the Chechen crisis could be settled through the CSCE.

Alain Dejammet, in his turn, said the mission intended to introduce the Ukrainian leadership to a comprehensive long-term cooperation program, drawn up by the EU, and sought acquaintance with Ukraine's views on some of the major domestic and international issues, including the Chechen conflict.

Kuchma Names First Envoy to Tokyo

OW0501103995 Tokyo KYODO in English 0947 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan. 5 KYODO—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma on Wednesday [4 January] named Mikhail Dashkevich [name as received], head of a Foreign Ministry bureau in charge of the Middle East, Africa and Asia-Pacific regions, as his country's first ambassador to Japan, officials said.

Ukraine is scheduled to set up its embassy in Japan in March, when Kuchma is expected to visit Tokyo, and Dashkevich is likely to arrive in Japan by that time, they said.

The 55-year-old Dashkevich has been a diplomat for 22 years.

He served as a first secretary at former Soviet Embassies in Benin, Congo and Mali. He has represented Ukraine at the United Nations after it became independent from the former Soviet Union in 1991.

National Affairs

Kuchma Issues Statement on Chechen Conflict

LD0501142695 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1310 GMT 5 Jan 94

[FBIS Tranlated Text] Kiev, 5 Jan—The press service of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma issued a statement, as follows: "Lately, there has been an increasing number of appeals, addressed to the Ukrainian president, which express grave public concern in Ukraine at the escalation of military operations in Chechnya. The Ukrainian leadership has repeatedly expressed itself on the developments in Chechnya, with its position based on the political and legal reality recognized worldwide. Unfortunately, the conflict is taking on ever greater dimensions and the escalation of the military operations has led to mass bloodshed. The world community's concern at reports of a great number of casualties in the region of the conflict and particularly among the civilian population, is shared in Ukraine. We call for restraint, insistent search for peaceful methods of settling the conflict, and respect for human rights, primarily with relation to the right to life."

Kuchma on Masol's 'Political Game'

LD0501211995 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1950 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received]—President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma has described Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol's public disagreement with some aspects of the economic reform as a "political game." President Kuchma offered this comment after an

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extended meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers today. The meeting was called following a letter from the prime minister to the president and the chairman of the Supreme Council, in which Mr. Masol claimed that negative rather than positive trends dominated the economy since the reform began. Leonid Kuchma condemned such declarations via the Supreme Council as a "call for people to protest in the streets."

In a report on emerging trends in the development of the economic situation by the end of 1994, Economy Minister Roman Shpek said that economic policy in the past was subjected to political and personal interests. Among the government's mistakes, he said, were the absence of real investment into the fuel and energy complex, inefficient use of credits, and irregular reviews of fuel tariffs. Mr. Shpek said the fall of inflation forecast for April 1995 may be delayed.

Commenting on the prime minister's letter to Ukrainian deputies, Mr. Shpek emphasized that "appeals to the Supreme Council for a change of economic policy" were "unacceptable." The minister of economy criticized Mr. Masol's comparison of the rate of inflation with the rate of population income growth as unjustified.

In his report, Finance Minister Petro Hermanchuk assured the Cabinet that the state budget deficit, according to the latest data, was held at 111 trillion karbovantsi, which was below the target limit of 117 trillion karbovantsi. He urged a review of populist programs adopted by the government and the Supreme Council earlier, and a firm moratorium on further steps of this kind.

"The budget must be implemented by experts," Mr. Hermanchuk stressed. "Control over implementation must be exercised by one person, either the prime minister or the president."

Over 15 ministers, deputies, scientists, bankers, and industrialists took part in the discussion at the meeting.

Ukraine's Industry Minister Anatoliy Holubchenko supported the minister of economics and said that one should support reforms not only by words but by deeds. He expressed readiness "to undergo the procedure of reappointment."

According to Yuriy Karasyk, Ukraine's minister of agriculture and food, in the absence of a single team "there is more talk than action" in the government. He called on Vitaliy Masol to make up his mind and resign. Yuriy Karasyk proposed that the other members of the government should otherwise resign.

Valeriy Shmarov, deputy prime minister and defense minister of Ukraine, comparing the Cabinet of Ministers once headed by Leonid Kuchma with that headed by Vitaliy Masol, said that now there is more red tape within the administration, while decisions it makes are imperfect.

Vitaliy Masol acknowledged many of the critical remarks in his address as fair, and said that he would "take them into account in his further activities."

After the prime minister had made his speech, People's Deputy Oleksandr Yemets drew his attention to the fact that at the Cabinet of Ministers session there were "not just critical remarks but, actually, the government members expressed no-confidence in their leader." Oleksandr Yemets called on Vitaliy Masol to dare "make a courageous step and resign without shifting this decision on to the president and the Supreme Council of Ukraine."

In summing up the debate, the president of Ukraine expressed his conviction that it is better to resign voluntarily if there is no accord in the top echelons of power. He emphasized that he is not afraid to lose his post, however, the limit of confidence in him as the president of Ukraine is not endless.

A draft protocol decision by the Cabinet of Ministers acknowledges it necessary to draw up by 1 March a program of the government's actions to implement the main provisions of the Ukrainian president's report "On the main principles of the economic and social policies," which he read out in parliament.

It was said that the prime minister's letter on behalf of the government was not coordinated with ministries, its conclusions were not substantiated, and the assessments of the actual state of the economy were tendentious.

The government and the National Bank of Ukraine were charged with the task to make a statement in fortnight on coordinated economic policy in 1995. It was also proposed that trade and economic agreements with the principal economic partners of Ukraine in CIS countries should be concluded urgently and that the size of wages, pensions, and grants be revised on a monthly basis by the 15th of every month.

Donbass Deputy Criticizes Draft Power Law

WS0501154495 Donetsk DONETSKIY KRYAZH in Russian 23-29 Dec 94 p 1

[Commentary by People's Deputy Yuriy Boldyryev: "Centralization Has Become Outrageous"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **It has already become obvious that the current political struggle in Ukraine is concentrated around a draft constitutional law on power—the so-called "small constitution" proposed by the president. In the preceding issue of DONETSKYY KRYAZH, observations on this topic were made by Yuriy Burykh, chairman of the Association of Donbass Mining Cities. For this issue, we have asked People's Deputy Yuriy Boldyryev to express his opinions on draft law.**

I would not want to comment on actions taken by the president himself. It is no secret that I always opposed the policies conducted by Kravchuk. Furthermore, I am

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always ready to sincerely support Kuchma if his actions are not at variance with his campaign promises.

In the first place, however, I feel obliged to uphold those propositions laid down in my own campaign platform, which was supported by the majority of my electors. One of the proposals laid down there postulates decentralization of the budget.

The point is that during the three years of Ukrainian independence, centralization of the budget has exceeded the figure from Soviet times and is nearing the 80-percent level. The center controls a simply absurd amount of means. It is a paradox: Everyone speaks about decentralization, democratization of management, but in reality everything is done the other way around.

In this connection, I am very annoyed by the president's draft law on power, which envisions the dissolution of oblast and rayon soviets. In essence, this draft law removes the last barriers on the path toward supercentralization. A governor may be too vulnerable, especially if the president is given the right to dismiss governors from their posts. A governor is alone, it will be difficult for him to fight against the central authority. Therefore, it is necessary to preserve oblast soviets.

If anybody dislikes the word "soviet," let him use some other word: Duma, Deputies Assembly, or Assembly of Representatives. As for me, I see nothing wrong in preserving the former name.

I think that too-frequent reforms spoil the process. It is better to not touch anything in this respect, to leave oblast soviets and governors with the same powers which they have today.

The Supreme Council, under pressure from the press and the president, may make concessions to the president, who is very much disposed to dissolve soviets or curtail their powers. I see my task, in its minimal scope, in preserving oblast soviets.

Otherwise, the withdrawing of means from regions will assume an uncontrollable character, and people will feel it immediately. In that case, we will have a conflict not between oblast and central authorities, but between people and authority in general. It goes without saying that this is far more dangerous.

Kuchma, Cabinet Continue Reforms

LD0601065195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0550 GMT 6 Jan 95

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Balykov for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev January 6 TASS— "The first signs of, and prerequisites for normalisation of the national economy have appeared in Ukraine in recent months," the Ukrainian cabinet of ministers said in a statement.

The statement released after the cabinet's Thursday meeting summed up the results of the republic's development in 1994. It said the rate of decline of industrial production slowed down, the production of coal, gas and electricity increased and the national currency unit stabilised at the end of 1994.

The statement also noted that the republic has begun to pay off its external debts on a steady basis, the investment climate has improved and international financial assistance is on the rise. The government hailed the prevention of hyperinfla-tion as one of its most remarkable successes in the past year.

Some ministers, however, sounded a more pessimistic note. Economics Minister Roman Shpek recalled that Ukraine had been on the verge of bankruptcy last autumn, Finance Minister Petro Hermanchuk, National Bank Governor Viktor Yushchenko and some others said a number of shortfalls in the economy was due to incompetent managerial decisions.

According to Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol, the problem of energy resources was one of the "landmines" in the reform path. He said Ukraine's foreign trade imbalance was bad for its national currency exchange rate, and called for boosting production even though there were no markets for the sale of domestic products.

President Leonid Kuchma reacted by saying that without energetic economic restructuring domestic products would not become competitive as the Western loans would be thrown to the wind.

The government's main objective, according to Kuchma, is to make sure that reforms advance comprehensively from day to day. Economic reforms are a lengthy process but there should be no delays in implementing them as the country has no reserves left.

The president warned that the government will have to take measures which cannot be popular but there is no other way out.

The president said the government must aim its economic policy at stabilising production and the country's overall living standards. It must ensure financial normalisation of the economy, reduce the budget deficit to no more than five per cent of the gross domestic product, liberalise foreign economic activity, reform the tax system and agrarian relations; develop privatisation; and promptly sign trade and economic agreements with Ukraine's main economic partners abroad.

Crimean President Demands Restoration of Power

LD0601101195 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0815 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol, 5 Jan—President Yuriy Meshkov of Crimea appeared on local television on 5 January after a long absence due to illness. He blamed the deterioration of the economic situation in

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the republic on the resignation of Yevhen Saburov's government and the president's loss of power as the chief executive, which has prevented implementation of his concept of economic reform.

President Meshkov agreed with the view revealed in opinion surveys that power in Crimea belonged to the mafia. In his televised address, the president hinted that the mafia had links with officials in the autonomous republic's parliament. In his opinion, this was the main obstacle to an effective campaign against crime. "The mafia is yet to have its say when redistribution of property begins," the president stressed.

Commenting on the situation, the president said: "Aggravation of relations between the Supreme Council and the president and the outcome of this conflict will mark the beginning of a new confrontation between the state structures of Ukraine and Crimea. It remains the president's priority to deal with economic problems, which will only become possible with full restoration of the president's powers. Since the use of force is out of the question, one can only rely on deputies' wisdom."

The president expressed confidence that Crimeans would support him in his campaign to restore the power of the president as the chief executive on the peninsula. President Meshkov repeated his promise to the electorate that he would introduce dual Ukrainian- Russian citizenship and restore circulation of the ruble in Crimea.

Tax Protects Crimean Goods From Competition

954F0757A Simferopol KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by I. Dyakov: "Protecting Domestic Goods Producers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have already reported the repeal of the value-added tax [VAT] on imported goods brought in by Crimean economic entities and processed in customs terms on the territory on the Republic of Crimea. When these goods are sold (with the exception of sales for foreign currency), VAT is applied to the difference between their selling price and the customs cost including customs duty, fees, and excise tax (on goods subject to excise tax).

Some of our economic managers began to fear that it will be difficult for domestic producers, to whose goods VAT is applied, to compete for foreign ones in the new environment. Another decree of the Crimean Government should dispel these fears.

The decree deals with the rate of excise fees that are supposed to protect Crimean and Ukrainian enterprises. Let us hope, though, that this will not hurt the consumer. Does it really make sense, for instance, to protect from competition by high excise fees many varieties of vodka produced by cottage-industry methods, using primitive simplified technology? This, of course, does not apply to high-quality products of the Azov Distillery. There is no question that we need to protect great beverages produced by "Massandra," the "Novyy Svet" and "Dionis" plants, and Simferopol and Sevastopol wine-making plants. It is probably impossible, however, to treat goods producers on a selective basis.

New excise fees go into effect on 1 January of the next year. They apply to imported goods brought in by Crimean economic entities. The following rates are envisaged (as a percentage of the customs (purchase) cost, taking into account customs fees and duties). For vodka and hard liquor—400 percent; wines containing ethyl alcohol—250; vintage wines—250; cognac—350; champagne and sparkling wines—250; table and ordinary wine—250; strong drinks made of fruit and grape alcohol; television sets and tape recorders—15; jewelry made of precious metals, including items with diamonds, precious and semiprecious stones—50 percent.

Crimean Deputy Discusses 'Terrorist' Attack

95954F075 Simferopol KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Dec 94 p 16B

[Article by T. Ryabchikova: "Is There a Defense against Bandits?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last Friday, at 0830 hours in the morning, B.V. Kizilov, a deputy of the Supreme Council of Crimea, was planning to go to parliament for a session. And he just started to go down the stairway when an unknown person struck him in the head from behind with a piece of pipe. After which two more young "gentlemen" appeared in time to beat up the deputy. Hearing the screams, B.V. Kizilov's wife ran out of the apartment and raised an alarm. The "gallant fellows," naturally, immediately disappeared without a trace.

At first, the militia arrived at the scene of the incident, and then the ambulance.

The Republic faction, of which B.V. Kizilov is a member, came out with a statement on that same day that categorizes the fact of the attack as a terrorist act. S.P. Tsekov, the chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea, gave instructions to V.N. Kirichenko, the acting chief of the main administration of the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] of Ukraine to look into what happened.

I called Major General V.N. Kirichenko yesterday morning to find out the results of the investigation. It is being conducted by V.I. Zhukov, the chief of the UVD [Administration of Internal Affairs] of Simferopol.

I called him up. There are no new facts yet besides the testimony of the victim and his wife, said the chief of the Simferopol UVD. A.A. Protsenko, his first deputy, was at the scene of the incident.

Protsenko explained that the progress of the investigation was encountering difficulty because of the absence

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of concrete facts and details on the attackers. The victim refused to officially express his suppositions on the possible reasons for the attack. The neighbors heard a noise, but they did not see what was occurring in the stairwell between the floors.

Alas, this is so. The hooligans and the bandits have intimidated people so much that many of them are already afraid to show themselves outside their apartments. The "stern fellows," on the contrary, are not afraid of anyone, including militia workers.

Yesterday, Deputy of the Supreme Council of Crimea B.V. Kizilov came to work with a plaster bandage on his right forearm. He confirmed in a conversation with me that no one has personal scores to settle with him, that the family lives peacefully with the neighbors, and that he has no enemies. "Besides a terrorist act, I see no other reasons for the attack," said the deputy.

While the investigation is going on, of course, I will refrain from making my own comments. I will note only that with each day we are suffering more from hunger and cold, but now also from being unprotected. It would seem that no one has abolished our human rights, including the right of deputy immunity. I emphasize that we all have rights. Only order is lacking. That is why we are suffering.

Chernobyl Seen To Operate Safely in December

LD0501190495

[FBIS Editorial Report] Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian at 1615 GMT on 5 January transmitted a report that says in December the Chernobyl nuclear power plant operated safely and generated 1,057 million kilowatt-hours of electricity, UNIAN quotes sources at the plant as saying. In December, the plant's first and third generating sets were in operation, with the first generating set reconnected to the grid after routine maintenance on 8 December. The second generating set is under repairs, the agency said.

The average daily volume of radioactive discharge from the Sarcophagus, a structure covering the fourth generating set damaged in the 1986 explosion, in December was, as follows: Radioactive inert gases 4.2 percent, long-life radionuclides 0.7 percent, and iodine-131 0.7 percent of that allowed under the environmental regulations applied to nuclear power plants, which the agency said was normal.

Rocket Army General on NPT, Issues

WS0501154595 Kiev UKRAYINA MOLODA in Ukrainian 1 Jan 95 p 3

[Interview with General Colonel Volodymyr Mykhtyuk, commander of the Ukrainian 43d Rocket Army, by Ivan Kovtonyuk; place and date not given: "Nuclear Arms: Past and Recollections"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The issue of nuclear disarmament was the undisputable priority in the international arena in 1994, in Ukraine's policy, and in fiery press debates. The tripartite declaration by the Ukrainian, Russian, and U.S. presidents was signed in January; in November, our state acceded to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]; in December, it received certain security assurances from the nuclear powers. Nuclear arms are still located in Ukraine, but their political destiny has become part of the "past and recollections" category. [passage omitted]

[Kovtonyuk] The history of the Strategic Rocket Forces has known only Russians commanders. You are the only commander who is Ukrainian by nationality. As far as I know, you were the only non- Russian [Strategic Rocket Forces] commander in the Soviet Union.

[Mykhtyuk] All my predecessors, indeed, were ethnic Russians. Was that a coincidence? I do not know. In 1989, I was commander of the 50th Rocket Army stationed in Smolensk and requested that I be transferred to Ukraine. My superiors met me halfway, and that is how I found myself in the 43d Army in Vinnytsya.

My roots are in Cherkasy Oblast, although I spent most of my life outside Ukraine. My father lived in the village of Kuzmyna Hreblya, not far from Uman. He was a border guard and served in Sakhalin. In 1944, immediately after the liberation of Ukraine, my father brought me to his village and returned to Sakhalin, because the Japanese campaign was unfolding. I completed two grades in the village school and my father took me back to Sakhalin again. Together, we used to move a great deal—to Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Estonia....

I graduated from the Nakhimov Black Sea Higher Navy School in 1960. The newly created Rocket Forces needed specialists then, and we were designated to serve in the Strategic Rocket Forces. I started at the lowest lieutenant position and at different times served as battalion commander, regiment chief of staff and commander, division chief of staff and commander, army chief of staff....

[Kovtonyuk] I know that your school colleague Igor Sergeyev is now commander of Russia's Strategic [Rocket] Forces. Are you two still in contact?

[Mykhtyuk] Yes, we studied together with Igor Dmitriyevich at the navy school, however we later served in different combined units and even different armies. Incidentally, he served in Ukraine for a long time—first in the Lutsk division, then as division commander in Pervomaysk, and as chief of staff of our 43d Army.

During all that time we maintained friendly relations. Of course, when he was commander in chief and I was 43d Army commander, our relations were those of a superior and his subordinate, however our former friendly contacts greatly helped us resolve army problems, particularly those which were caused by political situations.

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After the disintegration of the USSR, a lot of issues emerged concerning the management of the Strategic Forces, the maintenance of their combat readiness, and the servicing of combat rocket systems.... There were a lot of different situations, and this issue deserves a separate interview. Under all kinds of circumstances, however, we are still able to find a common language, moreover—to provide mutual support. Many times, Igor Sergeyev rendered us tangible assistance.

I believe that such personal relations are only beneficial for our cause and facilitate the positive resolution of grave problems which occurred in the past, are currently occurring, and which we will not be able to dodge in the immediate future.

[Kovtonyuk] Probably thanks to that, the division of the Strategic Rocket Forces did not provoke a situation similar to, let us say, the situation in the Black Sea Fleet.

[Mykhtyuk] This factor was just one of many, and it too, played its humble role. I do not want to claim that this was solely my accomplishment—the problem is expansive, and it was being resolved at the level of the heads of state, government, and the Defense Ministry. We too, however, have made our contribution. That is to say that the Rocket Army has not caused any major complications or critical situations, and I hope it will not cause them in the future.

I could cite personnel problems as an example: When we encountered the problem of redeploying hundreds of officers from our Army to the Russian Rocket Forces, we resolved it without rush, gradually, and with an eye to our nuclear security. There was no tide-like mass redeployment of the most trained and experienced officers. We are currently completing the resolution of that issue; we literally have a couple of dozen officers who would like to move to Russia.

[Kovtonyuk] Ukraine has acceded to the NPT. What does that mean for you—the military missilemen?

[Mykhtyuk] From now on, Ukraine is going to curtail its nuclear potential, as stipulated by START I, which envisages the limitation of nuclear arms quotas. We have now approached actual elimination measures: The removal of missile systems from combat duty, the dismantling of missiles and hardware, and detonation of launch silos. Those measures have already been planned for 1995.

[Kovtonyuk] This process is bound to entail new problems , given that it affects the lives of thousands of servicemen and their families. I am primarily referring to housing problems and social adaption [of displaced servicemen].

[Mykhtyuk] Liquidation measures include the resolution of purely technological problems. Incidentally, this is a very expensive undertaking. However, it is even more expensive to resolve the aforementioned social problems. The so-called liquidation program has been passed, the implementation of which demands appropriate financing. Due to the lack of funds, there is a trend toward broadening the gap between purely technological and social issues. In my opinion, the latter aspect is lagging behind.

Something, however, is being done. For instance on 14 December in Khmelnytskyy—I know that your newspaper, too, reported about that event—the ceremony of laying the cornerstone of a housing complex for Rocket Forces officers was held, attended by U.S. Ambassador [Miller] and our defense minister. The project will be financed by the United States. A similar settlement will be built for the officers of the Pervomaysk division. In Vinnytsya, too, housing for officers is to be built, however at the expense of the Ukrainian Government.

[Kovtonyuk] How are current failures of electricity deliveries impacting the missilemen's service?

[Mykhtyuk] Of course, we too, are afflicted by those failures, given that we do not have fully autonomous sources of energy. Solely combat missile systems are geared toward autonomous energy sources. Meanwhile, the settlements in which officers and noncommissioned officers live with their families have the same—if not worthy—living conditions as civilian towns. The situation is especially dramatic in the Pervomaysk division, where military settlements are not supplied with electricity for most of the day.

[Kovtonyuk] The storing and utilization of missile propellant is currently in the spotlight of reporters' attention. How is this process going? Do you think that missile propellant is suitable for further processing and use for economic purposes?

[Mykhtyuk] This is not a new problem for specialists. I would like to explain to your readers: All of the propellant pumped out of the missiles and removed from launch silos we transport to Defense Ministry warehouses for storage. Nitric acid is sent to industrial enterprises for further use. The issue of utilizing and processing missile propellant is not in our competence. I would only like to add that as of today, we do not have pumped-out propellant at our technological posts.

[Kovtonyuk] Along with the liquidation of entire combined units, including Romny, Sumy, or Lutsk divisions, territories and capital installations, as well as entire settlements are being freed. Who is taking them over from the Army?

[Mykhtyuk] After moving out of certain settlements we transferred them to local [civilian] authorities; some of them have been taken over by other combined units and divisions. I cannot say anything about their destiny, for we have not visited them for a long time now. However, according to those officers who retired and remained in those settlements, in some cases those settlements by far do not look the same—they look neglected and abandoned. [passage omitted]

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Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Explains Aims of Eurasian Union Proposal

BR0501154895 Rotterdam ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD in Dutch 4 Jan 95 p 9

[Article by Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev: "Eurasian Plan Already Bearing Fruit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was during my first official visit to Moscow as president of the independent state of Kazakhstan, just under a year ago now, that I first launched the idea of setting up a Eurasian Union of former Soviet republics. I see this union as a partnership between equal, independent states which must defend the national interests of the individual member states.

The countries of this Eurasian Union should not meddle in each other's internal affairs and should respect the sovereignty of the individual member states. Also, members should not exert political or economic pressure on each other. Decisions should be made by a majority vote and shall be binding within the union. An executive committee of all states must ensure the implementation of agreements ratified and the official language must be Russian.

The plan for a Eurasian Union was discussed in October at the summit of CIS heads of state when its aims were approved and the integration processes set in train. Part of the plan was used in setting up an economic committee for the various member states and also a budgetary union to ensure that payments can be effectively made between them. The summit's official resolution states that heads of state will use the basic principles of the proposal in order to promote cooperation within the CIS.

Now that I know what the heads of state—who often state that they represent the views of their people—think of my proposal, my next step will be to address the representative body of the people. I will ask what it thinks of my proposal for a Eurasian Union. The CIS is still to receive a detailed description of the plan from me. In this I in fact state what all people inside the former Soviet Union are seeking. We all have something in common. What we must do is eliminate borders and stop the destruction of the remaining relationships between our peoples.

I must admit that my convictions are certainly not shared by everyone in Kazakhstan. There is a nationalist group in my republic which opposes my policy. The falling living conditions and the economic crisis are used in order to criticize present leaders. And it must be said that our lives today are not exactly easy. People never know what the next day will bring. Nationalistic, chauvinistic figures draw on this in the name of patriotism. They want confrontation. The only remedy for this is integration.

My idea for a Eurasian Union does not mean that I oppose the CIS. The founding of the CIS, which I consider to be a club for presidents, was a blessing following the collapse of the Soviet Union. It is a good thing that we at least have some kind of union. But unfortunately the decisions taken by the CIS heads of state are not acted upon.

I think that a signal was given at the CIS summit in October. For the first time in the three years that the CIS exists, we have succeeded in setting up an economic committee of the member states. This is a supra-national bureau which is at the crux of the whole thinking behind my proposal for a Eurasian Union. It is also a good thing that the summit approved a budgetary union. It is also important that we have agreed on an integration-development program.

I believe that the new composition of the group of CIS presidents will further promote integration. The people will urge their presidents to do this, but the social and economic situation will act as a further inducement.

Large Numbers of Immigrants Arrive From Mongolia

LD0501173395 Almaty SOVETY KAZAKHSTANA in Russian 27 Dec 94 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] During 1991-94, 12,321 families (60,772 people) moved from Mongolia to Kazakhstan, 71 families returned.

The strongest flood of immigrants is from Mongolia—people are returning to their original native land. The movement is of an organized nature and is carried out in accordance with a quota set by the president each year. The quota is formed of applications from provinces, which themselves guarantee that people can be received there. However in reality this is far from being established practice. There are 1,500 immigrant families that are not provided with normal conditions of life and social security. As Labor Minister Petr Krepak said, this is causing serious concern in the ministry. His position is as follows: Before admitting an application for inclusion in the quota a place should be properly studied as to whether there is a basis to receive people.

The immigrants has got another problem as well: At the border they leave all their cattle in exchange for the appropriate document. According to the document they have to be compensated with the same number of cattle in their place of residence. But as a rule the solution of the question is delayed, which naturally causes discontent.

Labor Minister on Employment Issues

LD0601094995 Almaty SOVETY KAZAKHSTANA in Russian 27 Dec 94 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] This article is based on the subject of a news conference given by Labor Minister

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Petr Krepak. The heads of all services in the Ministry attended the news conference and talked about what problems they are tackling now and the prospects for their further work.

Opening the news conference, Krepak said that social security for the population, in particular the poor, is among the priority areas of the Ministry's work. In his view, this is the number one problem today. Considering the socioeconomic situation in the republic, it is a global and urgent problem.

The minister placed the problem with wages in second place in order of priority, followed by employment issues, working conditions and labor protection, migration, social partnership, improvement of labor legislation, and international relations. However, the minister stressed that each of the issues could be considered the chief problem separately.

How are they being tackled? As for social security, he said, first we should define exactly who really needs it today. Therefore the Ministry is working out a concept of targeted social security in order to start, without delay, to elaborate and confirm a program of targeted social security for the population.

The Ministry is also worried by the existing disproportions in wages of production sphere workers and of workers in budget-funded organizations. The gap here is very wide. The question rightly arises here, for example: Do doctors and teachers not do socially useful work? The problem can be resolved only by having a scientifically grounded definition of the minimum consumer budget and, on the basis of this, a minimum monthly wage. Its present size, the minister thinks, has no logical foundation.

When we talk about wages, the minister continued, there should be defined criteria for the poverty line, in accordance with which a wage policy could be implemented. The problem is seriously complicated by the total disruption of the time frame for paying wages. Working people are incurring huge losses because of inflation. Their constitutional rights are being violated. The Ministry is proposing the establishment of a state commission for inquiring into the causes of nonpayments. It is because of nonpayments that people are not receiving what they have earned in time.

There is also an alarming situation in the labor market. Though the official level of unemployment is not that high, the prospects do not give any reasons to be optimistic. However, in this connection, a lot of problems appear for the employment fund. Allocations to the fund are being made after serious delays, and not all of them are being used for their true purpose. Therefore, the fund should be separated from the republic's budget.

Having touched upon labor protection issues, the minister admitted that the procedure for establishing a state body for labor protection—a department—was dragged out for a year. This has had a negative influence on the situation. At the moment, the department is just developing its work, although the problem with industrial injuries is very serious. The Ministry intends to discuss it at its board meeting in January.

Discussing social partnership, the minister noted that a certain system had already formed in the republic, which has to be consolidated and provided with a normative basis. The problem is complicated by the fact that there are two parties—the government and trade unions—to the institution, but employers have not yet united. It is planned to establish a permanent consultative council made up of equal numbers of the parties' representatives, which will work out a general agreement between the government, trade unions, and employers for 1995. It will also maintain supervision over the agreement's implementation.

Fuel Company Chief on Coal Industry's Future

LD0501174395 Almaty SOVETY KAZAKHSTANA in Russian 31 Dec 94 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Ekibastuz Miners Have No Future Without Integration With Russian Power Engineering"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is no need to advertise the state joint-stock company Ekibastuzkomir. It is like Donbass for Ukraine or Kuzbass for Russia. Ekibastuz is Kazakhstan's fuel store.

In 1993 Amangos Utegenov became the head of this state joint-stock company: a graduate of the Rudnensk industrial institute, who went up the main steps in the hierarchy of the association, he is currently an expert with great experience of work and life How is his labor force entering the market? He speaks about this in today's conversation.

[Unidentified correspondent] While speaking about the work of any production, the distinguishing feature of today from the past is that now not the growth but the decrease in the level of the drop of production is stressed. What could be said about your enterprise, have you achieved stability or...?

[Utegenov] Over nine months our production was maintained on the level of achievements in 1993. There was a shortfall from the scheduled annual plan of 1.5 million tonnes. These are trifles considering our huge volumes. In October and November we could not dispatch more than 2 million tonnes of fuel to our consumers because of the breakdown in the supply of railway cars, and this led to coal production of 70 million tonnes, which is 4 million tonnes less than the planned amount. Judging by all the figures, we work, all in all, in stable way. But there is another, hidden mechanism, which measures the moral and psychological atmosphere in the work force. And its data arouse particular concern. The turnover in personnel has increased sharply. Moreover, the specialists of the main professions—excavator operators and

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their assistants and engine-drivers—are leaving. Recently the exodus of managers has begun and it is very problematic to find equally good replacements for them.

The situation is worsened by the systematic delay in wage payments. It is difficult to explain to people why there is a shortage of money when the consumers have received their products. Words are little help there. Currently Kazakh consumers owe 1.7 billion tenge to our enterprise. From this about 1 billion is owed by Pavlodar Region. At the beginning of the year and in the middle of November the work force went on strike. In the current situation there is no guarantee that the protest action will not be repeated on a larger scale. The 40th anniversary of the state joint-stock company Ekibastuzkomir was in December. And I was playing around with my modest wish to pay money due to employees on this occasion.

[Correspondent] The picture is a little bit gloomy. Is there any light? Are there any prerequisites for changes in the situation.

[Utegenov] The situation is not an easy one. But I would not like to dramatize it. We are not sitting around and twiddling our thumbs. It was delayed slightly but we have received, at last, the republican consumer basket for coal from the government. A growth in its volumes by 10 million tonnes is envisaged there by the year 2000. Currently Kazakh power engineers are ordering 40 and planning to consume 50 million tonnes. A long-term agreement until 2005 on supplying 28 million of tonnes annually has been drawn up with Russia. As a result we have a package of orders for 79 million for 1995. This is above our current capabilities. But the clear prospects will oblige us to increase production and seek reserves...

[Correspondent] But, Amangos Titauvich, you yourself complained of non- payments. But is it likely you will extract an extra piece of coal without an effective mechanism of settlements ...

[Utegenov] Non-payments is the plague of our economy. And not only of Kazakhstan's. The government has given us the green light not to supply fuel to the most inveterate debtors. This is an extreme measure but necessary. On the other hand we are building our relations with allied industries on a civilised basis. Innovations are going ahead with difficulties, not everything works out, but the results are tangible. So we have concluded long-term agreements with the power engineers of Chelyabinsk, Sverdlovsk, and Omsk regions [all in Russia].

The administrations of these regions actively support the mutually beneficial partnership. An open type holding Interugol [Intercoal] has been set up, and through it we are able to resolve our problems with the supply of materials, spare parts, and equipment. Recently we came to a mutual agreement to carry out payments for our coal in dollar equivalents, which will eliminate the problem of Russian ruble inflation. Moreover 30 percent of payments for coal will be paid in "real" money. The integration with Russian power engineering will allow Ekibastuz miners to enter the market confidently and live with a future.

The government has provided us with a German credit worth 36.4 million dollars. For this we can purchase, from the firm Mani-Tarkhaff [as transliterated], reloaders, equipment that will allow us to extract coal selectively, and thus improve its metallurgical quality and provide the domestic metallurgist with cheaper raw materials.

[Correspondent] So, it could be said that your work force have passed the most difficult stretch of the path toward the market?

[Utegenov] I cannot say "Yes" unequivocally. Many things depend not only on us. Will the republican economy stabilize, what will get the upper hand—common sense in inter-state relations or political ambitions? I know very well the frame of mind of the Russian governors with whom we cooperate hand in hand. But they are far from resolving all the problems. Customs barriers and issuing licenses for exporting materials are often resolved in the capital of Russia and not always in favour of equal partnership. I hope that common sense will get the upper hand.

[Correspondent] Often we hear accusations of monopolism against the basic branches of the economy—power engineering and the fuel industry. As a result there is a rise in prices with a chain reaction...

[Utegenov] I do not agree with this idea. The rise in prices for material resources is taking place; moreover they rise faster than for coal and electric power. For a example, if there is a rise in prices by 20 percent owing to fuel then charges for materials and services rise by 2-3 times.

Currently our ministry is heading toward stabilization of prices. This has been taking place since April and supposedly will continue in the first quarter of 1995. But nevertheless prices continue to rise. And our good intentions turn out to be against us.

We should seek together a way out of the vicious circle of rising prices. But not at the expense of other industries and not by using commands.

We should jointly overcome ailments, not trying to throw the difficulties to others. There is a need for a clear state policy as regards the basic branches. Because it is impossible to speak about the future of Kazakhstan without fuel and electricity.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Appoints Moldashev as Interior Minister

LD0501164695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bishkek, Jan 5 (Interfax)—Colonel Modalbek Moldashev, 47, was appointed the

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Interior Minister of Kyrgyzstan under a decree signed by President Askar Akayev Thursday [5 January]. Moldashev used to be a secretary of the presidential security council. He has experience of working with the security force.

The old minister Abdybek Sutalinov and his three deputies resigned at a session of the Security Council Wednesday.

Akayev appointed Zhumabek Ibraimov, earlier the head of the city administration in Bishkek, the secretary of state.

In an interview with Interfax Moldashev said that in his new capacity his task is primarily to restore public order, protect the rights of citizens and combat all forms of organized crime.

He said certain innovations would be made in view of the growing crime rate in the structure of the Interior Ministry.

The minister thinks that the selection of the personnel should be more careful and the operation of the ministry leadership more efficient.

Akayev Appoints New Administration Chief

LD0601071995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0701 GMT 6 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Mainayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bishkek January 6 TASS—President of Kyrgyzstan Askar Akayev appointed Bishkek Mayor Zhumabek Ibraimov as the new head of his administration and the state secretary on Friday [6 January] thus rejecting the suppositions of local observers that he would find a representative of the southern Osh region for the job.

Last Friday Akayev sent his chief of staff and state secretary Dzhanish Rustenbekov to run the important Osh region on the eve of parliamentary elections in the country.

Local observers predicted that the president would replace him by a representative of the Osh region and will thus balance the situation by having an envoy of the north as the head of the southern region, while a southerner will have a top post in the capital.

Observers said this would allow Akayev to hold the February 5 polls "quietly and without surprises".

Ibraimov, 50, has been heading the administration of the Kyrgyz capital since January 1993.

He was born in a peasant's family and graduated from the polytechnical institute in the Kyrgyz capital in 1971. He worked as an engineer and then as the director general of the local computer factory.

Tajikistan

Talks To Continue Despite Border Clashes

LD0501190295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1551 GMT 5 Jan 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Dushanbe government still wants to resolve the internal conflict through talks with armed opposition, the president's press secretary Davlatali Davlatov told journalists.

In his words, despite the violation by opposition fighters of the agreement on a ceasefire on the Tajik-Afghan border and inside the country that was signed in Tehran on September 17, the government delegation would attend the fourth round of talks with the opposition scheduled to be held in Moscow on January 15.

IF Note: Nine Russian border guards were killed and 11 wounded by shelling from Afghanistan in the area patrolled by the sixth post of the Kalaykhum border guard unit, Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region, Eastern Tajikistan on January 2.

Davlatov said that Dushanbe was still prepared to continue the negotiating process because political dialog was the only way to resolve the conflict.

Russian border guards in an area patrolled by the 12th post of the Moskovsky border guard unit thwarted two prevented border crossing by opposition units on two occasions Wednesday.

Officials in the Russian border guards press center in Tajikistan told Interfax that the fighters did not obey orders from the servicemen and opened fire. The Russian border guards returned fire destroying both groups of fighters totaling 15 men. There were no Russian casualties.

Rakhmanov Outlines Tasks of Local Government

LD0501172095 Khodzhand IIAQIQAT-I LENINOBOD in Tajik 28 Dec 94 p1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] From the first meeting of the president of the republic with the chairmen of the regions, towns and districts of Tajikistan.

On 24 December 1994, the first meeting of Emomali Rakhmanov, the president of the republic with the chairmen of regions, towns, and districts who were appointed by presidential edict a few days ago, took place in Dushanbe. Deputy chairmen of the Supreme Council, chairmen of the committees of the Supreme Council, deputy prime ministers, the heads of a number of ministries and institutions, and responsible employees of the presidential and governmental apparatus participated. [passage omitted]

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[Rakhmanov] Our republic has started its new phase, the essence of which is to guarantee an improved and free life for the people of Tajikistan. The Constitution, which was approved by our population in a nationwide ballot a month and a half ago will create the political basis for it. [passage omitted]

Now I want to look at a number of main issues of the activities of local administrations in the republic in accordance with the law of the Republic of Tajikistan on local administration, which shows the main trends in everyone's activities.

This law was prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the republic.

On the territory of Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region, in the regions, towns, and districts, the chairman, the representative of the president of the republic, will head the executive authority. The activities of the chairman are based on the principles of absolute rule and he will be competent to carry out the duties of the state administration.

Further, the local executive bodies will be called local governments. The appointment of supreme local executive bodies and the deputy chairmen in the regions, towns, and districts will be carried out with the consent of the republic's president and this will strengthen the responsibility of the local executive bodies. [passage omitted]

Today I must remind you as well that the first and foremost task of local government bodies is to supervise the implementation of presidential edicts and government resolutions. [passage omitted]

In our personnel policy we are doing our best to put right an error in approach to personnel and to put an end to localism. This leads to the break down of relations between the residents of Tajikistan, alienates the people and leads to a one-sided development of the economy. I am sure that there are capable personnel in every town and village of the country. We must rely on them. [passage omitted]

I want to remind you about one new thing in regard to personnel, which was implemented on the basis of the Constitution: I, as president of Tajikistan, appointed every chairman in the regions and districts. Thus it means that they are responsible to me for every action by them in heading their locality. I, as the head of state and government, will now head every area through you. Hence I will not let and will not give a chance to one of you to be incompetent and defame the state. As soon as you start work you must acknowledge that currently Tajikistan is in a deep crisis and our treasury is empty.

We, relying on you, the newly appointed personnel of independent Tajikistan, want to make 1995 the year we leave the socioeconomic crisis. We will do it if it falls to us.

We, in this meeting, which is the first meeting of the leaders of the districts, regions, ministries and committees, we have examined the most urgent problems of the day.

We have put forward issues that cannot be delayed. So we have our minimum program for 1995. [passage omitted]

Dzhamshed Karimov, the prime minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, was present at the meeting.

Two Simultaneous Blasts Reported in Dushanbe

LD0501201595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1922 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe, Jan 5 (INTERFAX)—Two blasts took place almost simultaneously in the Tajik capital Thursday [5 January] evening, competent sources told Interfax.

A taxi cab exploded near the Interior Ministry building in the center of the city at about 18:40 (local time). Within 10 minutes, a Lada was blown up near the republic's television center. No people were nearby, and the blasts left no human victims nor injured.

The Tajik law-enforcement bodies have so far declined to comment on the incidents.

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Armenia

U.S. State Department Concerned With Prohibition of ARF

NC0501214295 Yerevan SNARK in English 0905 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, January 5 (SNARK)—Officials of U.S. Embassy in Armenia and of U.S. State Department expressed their concern with prohibition of the leading opposition party of Armenian Revolutionary Federation "Dashnaktsutyun", detention of its leaders and stopping of its newspapers' activity, SNARK was informed in Armenian Independent press-center in Yerevan.

With reference to press-center, a representative of the State Department stressed that the whole party cannot be responsible for some of its members, accusation of which is not still proved by the court.

U.S. Embassy in Yerevan appealed to the Government of Armenia to guarantee lawfulness of legal proceedings while studying accusation and expressed its hope that investigation and trial will be open and just.

ARF Continues Activities Despite President's Decree

NC0501215795 Yerevan SNARK in English 1218 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, January 5 (SNARK)—The party "Dashnaktsutyun" [Armenian Revolutionary Federation, ARF] continues acting and has kept all its structures, said a chairman of the Party's Central Committee, the deputy of the Supreme Council of Armenia, Ruben Hakobyan at the session of Deputies' Meeting, opened today in Yerevan. As Hakobyan thinks, Ter-Petrosyan's decree on temporary stoppage of "Dashnaktsutyun" party activity is political and not law decision.

As Hakobyan thinks, the arrests of the party's members will be continued. At the same time he said that the party has already planned its further acts, however, he refused to inform about the character of these acts.

The parliament goes on its work despite the fact that more than twenty representatives of opposite fractions refuse to attend.

Ramkavar Party Differs From Right-Wing Alliance on ARF

NC0501183895 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1615 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The administration of the Ramkavar Democratic Liberal Party has not signed the joint statement of six rightist parties in support of the president's decree on the temporary suspension of Armenian Revolutionary Federation's [ARF] activity.

Ruben Mirzakhanyan, head of the administration of the Ramkavar Party, gave the following reason for this: From the very start, Ramkavar's participation in the inter-party consultation was conditioned on the fact that this consultation promoted constructive proposals, especially regarding the need to speed up the constitutional process, the privatization process, and a number of other issues.

We have never rejected proposals to take part in inter-party consultations, Mr. Mirzakhanyan said. Regarding the decree on the suspension of ARF's activity, an official statement from the administration of the Ramkavar Party will be issued. The members of the administration are deeply disturbed that the party, which has made an indisputable contribution to the national liberation struggle, harbors a secret organization within its structures that carries out acts of terror. We categorically reject terror as a method of political struggle. Those having direct guilt in this must certainly be severely prosecuted, stated Mr. Mirzakhanyan, head the of Ramkavar Party administration.

Opposition Factions Unite To Form 'Deputies' Assembly

LD0501205595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1846 GMT 5 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan January 5 TASS—Opposition factions in the Armenian Parliament, boycotting sessions of the republic's supreme legislature, have united in a non-formal association called "deputies' assembly." While the Armenian Parliament has adjourned for winter vacations, this group gathered on Thursday [5 January] in the parliament building's conference hall to discuss the situation in the Transcaucasian republic.

The split in parliament was prompted by the murder in mid-December of Yerevan's former Mayor Ambartsum Galstyan. A day after the murder, opposition lawmakers demanded that the Armenian president and prosecutor general appear before parliament and inform it about measures being taken to stop terror and violence in the republic. This demand failed to score the majority of votes in parliament. As a result, one section of the opposition lawmakers stepped down as deputies, while the other announced its decision to boycott the work of the current parliament.

The deputies' assembly, or a "smaller" parliament numbering about 50 lawmakers out of the total of 230, largely encompasses opposition forces of national democratic orientation. The assembly groups representatives of the Dashnaktsutyun Party, banned under a presidential decree, as well as three deputies' groups—National Democrats, Free Parliamentarians and National Progress. The leaders of the Armenian Communist Party recommended the party's faction to stop working in parliament, but so far communist lawmakers have not joined the deputies' assembly.

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At today's meeting, lawmaker Paruir Airikyan, formerly a well-known human right activist, suggested that a people's vote of no confidence in Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan be held in the republic. He moved to pass a provisional law on state administration and to press for a resignation of the current authorities.

Lawmakers from the Armenian National Democratic Union suggested setting up a constitutional commission at the deputies' assembly and immediately getting down to draft a new constitution. Representatives of the Dashnaktsutyn Party labelled the presidential decree banning their party as anti-constitutional and illegal.

Members of the deputies' assembly disagreed on the need to dissolve parliament whose term of office expires in May, as well as on whether an anti-government rally should be called.

The deputies' assembly issued a statement saying the supreme legislature had turned into an appendage of the executive branch, on the one hand, and "a screen for mass violations of democratic principles and human rights" in the republic, on the other hand. The assembly is seeking to restore the role of parliament as a legislative and controlling body and "to put an end to the ever increasing allpermissiveness and irresponsibility in Armenia."

Ter-Petrosyan's 28 Dec Speech on ARF, Part II

NC0401194895 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 2045 GMT 3 Jan 95

["Second part" of a rebroadcast of an address by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan in Yerevan, first carried on Yerevan television on 28 December—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] After familiarizing you with the structure of the [Dro] Special Service, I would now like to dwell on specific fields of its operations.

First: Intelligence work. Through its own agents and moles, the Dro Service has surveiled the work of Armenia's state organs, particularly that of the Army, State Directorate for National Security, the Interior Ministry, and the staff of the chief adviser on national security affairs to the president of the Armenian Republic.

I will now again display the relevant documents and will read some excerpts from these documents.

Now, as regards the surveillance of the Army—this is written in very small letters; I have to use a magnifying glass to read from these documents culled from the diskettes—the surveillance of the Armenian Armed Forces: To determine its numerical strength, amount and type of arms, armored equipment and units using them, the number of our comrades—that is, the number of Armenian Revolutionary Federation [ARF] members in the Army—the relations between the various units within the army and the general command and the commanders. Also to keep under surveillance every operation of the Armenian Army, the troop types, engineering works, trenches, mine fields, observation posts, gun emplacements, bridges, and so on, the garrisons, names of military units, their transportation means, the routes for the transportation of water, food, fuel, and ammunition, and so on.

This service has also carried out similar intelligence work regarding the Russian Army stationed in Armenia. Now, I will read another excerpt in connection with surveillance of the Army. Its military strength, presence of armed groups, numerical strength, discipline, amount of and types of the arms, the number of members in the state forces, its influence on armed groups outside its jurisdiction—this refers to the ARF members in the Army—the source and avenues for arms procurement, its main activity, the domains where arms could be used, our strength in these groups, and so on.

This service has also carried out intelligence work in the military intelligence departments of the Armenian Army and the Armenian Defense Ministry during the term of Vazgen Manukyan. Here is a document which is one of the basic documents of this structure [Dro]. Here are noted the intelligence work carried out by this service inside the Armenian Army's military intelligence department, the State Directorate For National Security, the staff of the adviser to the Armenian president on national security affairs when the adviser was Ashot Manucharian, and inside the operations department of the Interior Ministry. They infiltrated all these places and had agents there. Here I will read these out one by one: the surveillance of the Russian secret services, the secret service of the 7th Army, and the secret service of the Interior Ministry. Then comes the external surveillance—this is a euphemism for the staff headed by Ashot Manucharyan, once adviser to the Armenian president on national security affairs—and the military surveillance of the Army during the ministry of Vazgen Manukyan.

Besides the organs of power, this service also carried out intelligence work within the state organs, ministries, regional administrative organs—some very interesting places have come under their surveillance—the church, schools, political organizations—let me show you, there are so many that it is difficult to find them quickly—in economic structures, state organs, law enforcement organs such as the State Security Committee and GIN [expansion unknown]. It worked to detect influential persons. It carried out intelligence work inside the councils—meaning local administrative councils. It gathered specific information on leading officials. It carried out intelligence work within the spiritual sphere—such as schools, educational institutions, churches, and sects—and political organizations, and so on.

It is highly interesting that this secret service has carried out intelligence work even within its own party. This service has compiled files on every ARF member. I will now display this document to show that it has also

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carried out intelligence work within its own party. Here you see the so-called cadres' department of this service. I am reading directly from the relevant section of the document. This section operates under the cover of the Central Committee and subcommittees, using them as the party's cadre offices where all information on all the party members—their speciality, intellectual and military abilities, and pasts—are recorded; and if need be, this information is used to prepare recommendations. This department has already been created, with a paid staffer who is paid by the Central Committee. The possibility of hiring another staffer is noted. Contacts with specialists in various fields who wish to work with the party come under the purview of this department of the Central Committee.

Now, let us see this service's economic activity and its finances. Dro Special Service has basically been engaged in illegal economic activity, such as racketeering—information has been gathered on every businessman, on all the so-called land owners, and there is evidence that they have been subjected to terrorism. It has also engaged in trading in counterfeit dollars. It has created a number of front companies, such as the (Aktron) firm, (Gismet) corporation, (Stok) shop, Drest warehouse and transportation firm, and so on.

The documents we have list a number of economic spheres where that service is active. Here is the sphere of economic activity of the Economic Group: Trade in light industry products, the manufacture of medicine, [words indistinct] in heavy industry, finances, banks—insurance policies and investments—printing, packaging, and publication.

I will read yet another document. Here I am again directly quoting from the documents: Already independent enterprises are operating in the following spheres: Wood processing and furniture making, design and office repairs, electronic goods, printing, metal processing, manufacture of plastic goods, and computer programming. We still need an enterprise to manufacture medicines—we recommend comrades Tsolak Tutulyan and Gogo Grachyan from Lebanon for this job—and a taxi network. We need an enterprise to trade in and manufacture of padlocks, and a strong construction company—we recommend comrades Arboyan, Korkunyan, Buyukyan and others from Lebanon.

All the fighters have been rewarded. Now I will show you the list of rewards. Here again codes are used. First: Harut's monthly salary is $40—This is for the 10th month—it is $40 for the 10th, 11th and 12th months. Armen's monthly salary is $40 for the 10th and 12th months, and so on. Some 28 persons are mentioned here. Of these, 12 have received $40 each, and three $20 each, four $15 each, and so on.

Here is yet another document showing the financial allocations this service has made to various firms. Here is that document. A total of $7,605 has been allocated. Some $700 for Arto to travel to Beirut, $600 for Raffi to travel to Beirut, $350 for Raffi's visa, $1,000 for the piano—I do not know what this means—$400 for the trust, $50 in payment of debts, $400 for Artsruni's wages for the months of April, May, June, and so on. The total is $7,905.

However, the international narcotics business has constituted the basic source of income for the [Dro] Special Service and the party in general. As was already noted, almost five kg of heroin was seized from the criminal group. Its market value is almost $1 million. Another 3.5 kg of heroin was found on the Beirut-Yerevan- Moscow route a few months ago, again with the joint effort of the Armenian State Directorate for National Security and the Russian Federal Intelligence Service. The U.S. special service was notified about this. The course of investigation shows that this incident too is probably linked to the activities of the same criminal group because the heroin comes from the same source. An ARF Bureau member in Beirut is heading the narcotics trafficking on the aforementioned route. The investigations have now revealed the participation of ten members of Dro Special Service in the narcotics business. Of these, six have been detained—two of them in Moscow and four in Yerevan.

The most frightening of all that service's activities, however, are the cold-blooded political assassinations prepared over a long period which its fighters have organized and executed during the last two years. This is a bizzare case in criminal history, for the criminals and murderers have left behind so much material evidence and documents, even all the reports on the organization, planning, surveillance, and execution involved in these murders. I will now show you three murders and handwritten reports. One of these is a known murder, it is the murder of a person especially well-known among ARF circles. He is Gagik Sahakyan, who was assassinated in front of his house on 2 May of this year. Here is this operation, organized by the relevant department of Dro Special Service, which has been found in its archive. That operation is codenamed TOK-1. It starts from the very first day when TOK-1 was profiled—that is, Gagik Sahakyan's profile—and the recommendation for the assassination was made. Next, begins the surveillance of the victim. There are documents here from 10 April 1994. I already said that the assassination took place on 2 May. Here is the first report: I received your coded letter on such and such a date. I inform you that the basic work is being carried out by 12/11—this is a code for a specific fighter which has been deciphered and we know who he is. [Continues quoting the document] This is because 121 is busy and 12/02 is at the base and therefore are unable to participate, or are only partially able to participate in the work, and so on.

This is followed by other reports on results of surveillance. It says there was no light in TOK-1's house until 9 April 1994, probably the lighting system was damaged, and so on. An elderly person has been observed to be a permanent resident in the house, and so on. The observations started as of 31-0300-94 on Thursday morning.

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At around 1200-1230 TOK-1 left his house in a black car, license plate 086 BES-8575 AR, went toward the Third District, and did not return until 1530. Then comes the times for his return home.

These reports have been written by different people and carry the signatures of various peoples. The identity of all of them have already been discovered. Some of them have been detained and have confessed their deeds. This is also shown by the investigation and by the instructions issued to them.

Here, one of the reports includes a map of Gagik Sahakyan's house and street in general. It is Sepastia Street in Shahumyian District. Here, this is Gagik Sahakyan's house, which is marked in red on the original. Here all the escape routes have also been noted, and so on.

The reports continued to be written until the last day. Here is the final report. The murder in these coded reports is referred to as Printing, or Publication. The last report says: Before going to the publication of TOK-1 yesterday I very much wanted to contact you but I could not. In any case, the publication of TOK-1 journal has been accomplished in 18,000 copies. This is a very interesting number, because the judicial investigation has revealed that 18 bullets were fired at Gagik Sahakyan.

Here is yet another murder that was found in the Dro Special Service's archive. This too is a hand-written report. Considering the ongoing investigations, I have no right to reveal the names of the murdered people in this document. Here two murders have taken place, the murder of a husband and wife. This too is coded.

As I already said, as of tomorrow we will start publishing all these documents in HAYASTANI HANRAPETUTYUN. Our people will have an opportunity to get directly familiar with them and—what shall I say—lovers of detective stories will be dumbfound with this literature.

Azerbaijan

Russia Accused of Exceeding CFE Troop Limits in Caucasus

NC0401210095 Baku TURAN in English 1641 GMT 4 Jan 95

["Russia Concentrates on North Caucasus Military Group, Exceeding the Quota of Agreement on Usual Armament in Europe"—TURAN headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, January 4 (TURAN)—Azerbaijan is concerned with situation in Chechnya. According to military experts war in Chechnya may affect the military and political situation in Azerbaijan. First of all it is due to the great number of troops and military technics close to north borders of Azerbaijan and possible consequences of war in Chechnya.

Analysts note that despite some stabilisation in the Armenian- Azeri, Georgian-Abkhazian, Georgian-Osetian and Osetian-Ingush conflicts , the situation on the Caucasus became very explosive after beginning the military actions in Chechnya. Presently the danger of the fact that war in Chechnya will bring to new escalation of the freezed conflicts and their unification into one big hotbed.

But such perspective is not the only reason of Azerbaijan's concern. Thus, according to Russian sources, presently Moscow gathered on the North Caucasus up to 40,000 military men, approximately one thousand [pieces] of military hardware, about one hundred planes and military helicopters, hundred units of artillery, tens of "Grad" and "Uragan" plants [rocket launchers] and so on (in addition to the troops which were located there earlier). All that exceeds by many times the norms of agreement on usual armament in Europe [Conventional Forces in Europe, CFE, Treaty]. To a purpose Head of the Department of press and information of Russia's Foreign Ministry Grigoriy Karasin stated lately that Russia's quota in the agreement on usual armament in Europe should be increased.

Russian planes, fulfilling military operations over the Chechnya has violated several times air space of Georgia and Azerbaijan, from the informed sources in the Defence Ministry of Azerbaijan. The continuation of war will bring to the fact that countries neighbouring with Chechnya will be involved into the conflict. Besides, there is a probability that Islamic countries will also interfere [in] the war. All that is in favour of the version that further continuation of the conflict can bring the Caucasus to the unprecedented tragedy.

Iranian Embassy Denies Bridge Trade With Armenia

LD0401190395 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, Jan. 4, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy here today refuted claims of exchange of goods between Iran and Armenia through the Khoda-Afarin bridge and the Armenian occupied areas of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The embassy quoting the Islamic Republic Interior Ministry emphasized that no exchange of goods takes place between Iran and Armenia through the Khoda-Afarin bridge.

The Azeri press had recently claimed exchange of goods between Iran and Armenia via the border bridge which spans the river Aras. The rejection of the claim by the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran was broadly reflected by Azerbaijan radio, television and print media.

Unknown 'Alliance' Denounces Anti-Aliyev Bloc

NC0401211095 Baku TURAN in English 1641 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, January 4 (TURAN)—On the eve of New Year unknown organization "Alliance in

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Support of Azerbaijan" issued the statement. The statement reads that "having created 'Civil Union' bloc, Ayaz Mutalibov, Suret Guseynov, Rahim Gaziyev and Alikram Gumbatov, committed grave crimes against Azeri state". They have for an aim removal of President Aliyev from his office, the statement reads. "If these culprits come to power in Azerbaijan, all Moscow's demands will be satisfied" (introduction of Russian troops through Iran's and Turkey's borders, laying of pipeline through Russia's territory and revision of oil contract).

"Alliance in Support of Azerbaijan" sees these activities as betrayal of Azerbaijan's national interests and announces about its struggle against all these forces by all acceptable means.

It must be added that it is still unknown who are the members of "Alliance in Support of Azerbaijan". Meanwhile, this document was published in governmental newspaper "AZERBAIJAN".

Ganja Trial Winds Up, Verdicts Expected 5 Jan

NC0401211395 Baku TURAN in English 1641 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, January 4 (TURAN)—Late today the trial on Ganja events 1993 resumed. Defence lawyer, People Deputy Mirmahmud Fattayev noted that Ganja events June 4, 1993 should be assessed as anti-state rebel. He said that a special opinion on that was noted by him in the conclusion of the deputy's commission, created by the parliament in June 1993. "The conclusion of the commission, which assessed those events as use of force by the government of Elchibey against armless people was not true and was fabricated by Geydar Aliyev," stressed Fattayev. The last word was given to the accused, but they asked to postpone their addresses till tomorrow. The Judge Ogtay Magsudov satisfied their request. Thus, the trial will be resumed tomorrow at 10 a.m. The pass of final sentence on the case is expected tomorrow.

Trial Protests Continue

NC0401212595 Baku TURAN in English 1641 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, January 4 (TURAN)—A campaign of rallies of protest, pickets and gathering the signatures in the number of regions of the republic regarding the trial on Ganja events June 4, 1993 continues, according to press-centre of Musavat [Equality] Party. "Despite the pressure of the police, in the regional centres of Ismailli, Zagatala and Belokan, pickets and rallies of protest against the illegal trial were held, petitions demanding to stop the trial farce were adopted," Musavat's press-centre reports.

Besides, in some cities and regions of the republic the local branches of the parties Musavat, Ana Veten [Motherland], Boz Gurd [Grey Wolf], New Azerbaijan and Democratic Party of Independence adopted statements demanding to stop illegal trial.

According to Musavat's press-centre, on January 3 social organisations and representatives of Turkish intelligentsia appealed to leaders of Azerbaijan expressing concern on the charge of the guiltless people of Azerbaijan. The appeal reads that approximately 25,000 signatures, demanding to stop trial on Ganja events 1993 are gathered in Turkey.

Baku Refuses To Deregulate Oil Prices

LD0501211295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1922 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, Jan 5 (INTERFAX)—Azerbaijan has refused to fully deregulate its oil prices by the end of 1994 [as received].

Complete deregulation within the year of all prices, including those of energy, is demanded by the International Monetary Fund as a condition for giving Azerbaijan a $160-million loan to back its economic reforms.

Azerbaijan will be unable to raise its oil prices to more than 50 percent of international ones, the former Soviet republic's Economics Ministry says. It argues that it is impossible to let go of oil prices and simultaneously curb inflation, which is another IMF condition. The ministry forecasts that, if the government keeps its grip on oil prices, the Transcaucasus republic's gross domestic product this year would not top 9.5 trillion manats, which is 10 percent less than last year's in terms of current prices, while inflation, which last year rose by a factor of 12.3, would go up by a factor of no higher than 7.8. if oil prices go free, however, GDP would swell to between 17 and 18 trillion manats and inflation would jump up twentyfold, the ministry warns.

In 1994 inflation in Azerbaijan soared from 24.3 percent in October to 70.3 percent in November, while the manat by the end of December fell to 4,182 to the U.S. dollar. The year's budget deficit, set at 7.4 percent of GDP, reached 14.5 percent, or 229.3 billion manats, according to the Finance Ministry.

The Economics Ministry believes 1995's industrial output can be kept at last year's level—8.8 trillion manats, with prices for it rising by no more than 760 percent—while agricultural output can be increased by 5 percent and brought to 4.1 trillion manats, with prices for it going up by a maximum of 560 percent. But none of this can be achieved without normal traffic on the North Caucasus Railway, along which up to 75 percent of the republic's cargo comes and goes, and without the free mutual convertibility of the Commonwealth of Independent States' currencies, the ministry says.

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Georgia

Swiss MP, Shevardnadze Discuss Swiss Mission in Caucasus

LD0401183795 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze today received Ernst Muhlemann, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Swiss Parliament. They discussed cooperation between the two countries, as well as granting to the Republic of Georgia the status of a specially invited country [as heard] to the Council of Europe.

Mr. Muhlemann said it would be expedient to open a Swiss mission in the Caucasus with a residence in Tbilisi. The Georgian head of state agreed with Mr. Muhlemann's suggestion, and noted that Georgia is interested in establishing close links with Switzerland, and that it would take specific steps toward it.

Shevardnadze Hopes for Peace in Chechnya Soon

LD0401181095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 4 Jan 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Head of state Eduard Shevardnadze has expressed the hope that fighting in Chechnya "will be over within the next few days and peace, order and democracy will be established in that land."

Several hundreds of Chechen families, mainly women, old people and children, have fled to Georgia, Shevardnadze said in a radio program. "I have ordered the cabinet of ministers to issue a special directive to urgently give them the same kind of aid as that received by refugees from Abkhazia and South Ossetia," he said.

Shevardnadze said Georgian authorities had information that Abkhazians are fighting on the Chechen regime's side.

Going over to the Abkhazian and South Ossetian problems, Shevardnadze said the potential for nonviolent solutions had not yet been exhausted. He said he would soon publish his proposals for the settlement of both conflicts.

As for work on a new Georgian constitution, that "is going into its final stage," Shevardnadze said. It is that constitution that will form the legal basis for this year's elections, he said.

Troops Sent to Chechen Border

LD0501160195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tbilisi, Jan 5 (Interfax)—The Georgian Government has sent troops to Chechnya's border to prevent Chechen forces from entering Georgia, a provisional border control center reported.

The troops will reinforce the border guard, the center, set up in Tbilisi several days ago, said on Thursday [5 January].

British Company Begins Oil Drilling in February

AU0401145495 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 22 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Meeting with the Head of State"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 19 December, Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Parliament-head of state, received David Robson, president of the joint Georgian-British oil-extracting company "JKX" and the company's General Director Niko Tevsadze.

The joint company, which was formed one year ago, recently shipped to the port of Poti a drilling rig following the assembly of which serious and wide-scale work on the search for oil will commence for the first time in Georgia.

The company's president explained to the head of state interesting details connected with this work and stated that, if the weather is favorable, they would start to extract oil as early as in February. The guest also pointed out that English specialists in the main would initially take charge of the work, but the company was interested in attracting and engaging as many Georgian specialists as possible in this process.

Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Eduard Shevardnadze expressed hope that the company would fulfill its promises and that the oil extracted in Georgia would significantly improve the country's economy in the near future.

NDP Refuses To Vote for Draft Budget

LD0501172195 Tbilisi SAKINFORM in Russian 1130 GMT 5 Jan 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At a news conference held on 4 January in Tbilisi, the leadership of the National Democratic Party [NDP] of Georgia severely criticized the draft budget for 1995 submitted for discussion by the Georgian Supreme Council. It was announced at the news conference that the members of the National Democratic party faction would not vote for the draft budget at the extraordinary Supreme Council session to be held on 10 January, unless amendments were made to the draft.

Touching on the situation in Chechnya, the participants in the news conference noted that Georgia's blatant pro-Russian stance to the conflict in the North Caucasus might put the republic in confrontation with Western countries.

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Abkhaz Ministry Reports Attack on Galskiy Border Post

LD0401144495 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 4 Jan 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Abkhazian Ministry of Defense reported that, after a period of peace, the situation in the Galskiy Rayon—which borders on Georgia—has again become more acute. In direct proximity to the security zone defined by the Moscow agreement for stationing the blue helmets, the Abkhazian control post Number 5 was subjected to massive shelling from grenade launchers. As a result of the sortie, four sentries of the Abkhazian armed forces were seriously wounded.

Due to energetic measures, the special assignment subunit of the Russian blue helmets managed to detain a Georgian sabotage group that was trying to return to the territory of Georgia. The group consisted of five people under the command of a man named Shanugia; five sub-machine guns, two grenades, and 1,070 cartridges were confiscated. The Abkhazian authorities demand that the criminals be delivered to them so that an investigation can be carried out and the criminals put on trial.

Abkhazia: 'Subversive Acts' in Gali Region

LD0401190595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1648 GMT 4 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shegoleva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sochi January 4 TASS—The Abkhazian Government has accused Georgian authorities of staging subversive acts in the Gali region, said a statement of the press service of the Abkhazian Government, circulated on Wednesday [4 January].

The statement contains a number of facts, which in the opinion of the Abkhazian side, show that a group of militants and bandits, who broke through from the Zugdidi region, has been operating on the territory of the Gali region. Over the past twenty four hours, an Abkhazian militiaman and four Abkhazian women had been taken hostage in this region.

The statement went on to say that for fear of the safety of the population of the Gali region, the Abkhazian leadership "avoided taking any adequate measures." However, if until January 10 all militants who illegally crossed into the territory of the republic do not leave the Gali region, the Abkhazian leadership will have to take all the necessary measures to eliminate bandit formations and groups of terrorists," the statement said.

UN Chief Military Observer Denies Abkhazian Allegations

LD0501091195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0856 GMT 5 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS string correspondent Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tbilisi January 5 TASS—We did not observe Georgian Armed Forces to concentrate on the bank of the Inguri River, said Brigadier General John Khvidegaar, who is in charge of a group of UN military observers in the area of Georgian-Abkhazian conflict.

According to Georgian television, the brigadier general has thus disproved earlier reports of A[illegible]ian media and leaders, which said that Georgia w[illegible]ringing its troops to the region.

Earlier, these allegations were denied by Georgian Government officials.

The brigadier general met with Major-General Giviy Lominadze, Georgian president's special envoy in western Georgia in Zugdidi on Wednesday [4 January].

The UN military observers continue to patrol the abovementioned region.

Abkhaz Supreme Council Session Opens, Elects Officials

LD0401162195 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1400 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 4 Jan—The session of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, attended by 17 deputies out of 26, opened today at 1200 at the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia. The session elected Tamaz Nadareishvili as chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and Napoleon Meskhia as the deputy chairman.

Nadareishvili gave an opening speech at the session, saying that the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia had to perform a historic mission: accomplish realistically the idea of returning to Abkhazia. Nadareishvili noted that he opposed categorically the settlement of the Abkhaz problem by means of a guerrilla war and that it was a task of the Abkhaz Supreme Council to hold negotiations with Russia and international organizations that deal with Abkhazia.

Four issues were on the agenda of the session: 1. organizational; 2. further activities of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia; 3. genocide and ethnic cleansing; and 4. Abkhaz separatism and its contributory factors.

Anzor Latsurbaia, procurator general of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, spoke about the instances of genocide and ethnic cleansing in Abkhazia and noted that they were being investigated intensively. Member of parliament Levan Aleksidze also spoke at length about the above issues.

Zurab Erkvania, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, said in his address to the session that it would be impossible to

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return to Abkhazia without Russia's help. In his words, discussions on military matters in the mass media must be stopped.

The session elected Tengiz Pachkoria the head of the press service of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia.

Abkhazia Elects Vice President, Prime Minister

LD0501171695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1702 GMT 5 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sochi January 5 TASS—The local parliament of Georgia's province of Abkhazia met on Thursday [5 January] to elect Abkhazian vice-president and prime minister.

Upon the recommendation of President Vladislav Ardzinba, elected to the vice-presidency was Velary Arshba, formerly Abkhazia's representative in the North Caucasian republic of Adygeya.

Gennadiy Gagulia, former deputy prime minister, was elected Abkhazian prime minister. He was instructed to form a new government within two weeks. The staff of government bodies is expected to be reduced approximately by half. Only 11 ministries are likely to function in the republic instead of the existing 16 ministries.

At their meeting, Abkhazian lawmakers also approved amendments to the laws on state duties and on Abkhazian citizenship, thus bringing these laws in line with the republic's constitution.

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Lithuania

Russia Denies Visas to Legislators Destined for Chechnya

WS0501151695 Tallinn BNS in English 1326 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jan 05, BNS—Russia denied visas to Lithuanian MPs Romualda Hofertiene and Romualdas Ozolas on the grounds that Lithuanian mediation in the Chechnya conflict is "not necessary," Lithuanian Foreign Ministry officials said Thursday [5 January].

Ozolas and Hofertiene, who are members of the Lithuanian parliament's goodwill mission, had intended to accompany relief supplies to Chechnya and possibly to help search for a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas, who earlier promised to ask Russia to give clearance for planes from Vilnius to deliver relief to Chechens, said Thursday that Moscow has offered to fly humanitarian aid to Mozdok and Beslan airports in Northern Ossetia.

The two airports are controlled by Russian troops fighting against Chechnya, therefore the offer was not accepted, a spokesman for the goodwill mission said. It is highly probable that aid sent to Russian-controlled airports would never reach its intended destination, relief suppliers say.

The Lithuanian goodwill mission aims to send aid to Makhachkala airport in the neighboring region of Dagestan.

Meanwhile, Russia also refuses to issue visas to members of the international organization Doctors Without Borders (Medecines Sans Frontiers), who are waiting in Vilnius for an opportunity to deliver relief supplies to Chechnya and to aid Chechen refugees.

Russian visas have been issued to two Lithuanian citizens, but relief experts say two persons would be unable to cope with the planned aid program.

Brazauskas, Faction Leaders Discuss Military Transit

LD0401153595 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Russian 1300 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Algirdas Brazauskas has met leaders of all Seimas factions to discuss Russian military transit through Lithuania.

The newspaper RESPUBLIKA recalls that this meeting was planned last year after the leaders of the factions submitted to the president a statement on not allowing Russian military transit through the territory of the republic.

According to Albinas Januska, secretary of the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the leaders of the factions submitted at the meeting very interesting proposals which will be discussed and, hopefully, applied.

The newspaper notes that the leaders of all factions were after the meeting smiling mysteriously and proposing almost unanimously to journalists that an official communique be read, instead of commentaries.

In the view of a representative of the Conservative faction, the meeting was constructive and Aloyzas Sakalas, leader of the Social Democrats, added that unnecessary information in the press could hamper successful implementation of a proposal discussed with the president and said that it was possible for Lithuanian policy to become an affair not only of the ruling Democratic Labor Party but of all parties.

Justas Paleckis, presidential adviser on foreign policy, told journalists that many very useful ideas were raised during the meeting, but it is too much to say that there will be no agreement on military transit with Russia. He also added that representatives of some factions are proposing to give up the agreement and seek ways of how better to adopt a decision acceptable to Russia.

Concessions on Russian Military Transit

LD0501194395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jan 5 (INTERFAX)—Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius told a news conference in Vilnius Thursday [5 January] that Russian troops still transited to the Kaliningrad region and back through the republic's territory according to the procedure used during the Russian troop withdrawal from Germany instead of regulations for transiting dangerous and military shipments approved by the Lithuanian government.

Prior to this, Slezevicius and Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas had repeatedly stated that the new regulations would come into force on January 1 1995 and would be obligatory for all countries, including Russia. According to the regulations, permission to a shipment was to be granted only if obtained through diplomatic channels no later than 21 days before the shipping.

Russia hopes for a simplified procedure for its transit taking into account its regular character and volumes.

Slezevicius said Russia had been made the concession "due to changed circumstances." However, he declined to comment on the circumstances.

Instead, Slezevicius pointed to the fact that intensive talks with Russia on this and other issues were underway. A group of Kaliningrad experts is coming to Vilnius on January 9 to negotiate such issues as guarding the shipments, making collaterals for transported goods, etc.

Slezevicius said his meeting with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin scheduled for late January was being prepared through diplomatic channels.

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Slezevicius hoped that the meeting would promote a faster ratification and enforcement of the bilateral agreement on mutual granting the most-favored-nation status signed in November 1993.

Foreign Ministry Denies Plan to Refuse Residence Permits

LD0401163295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1459 GMT 4 Jan 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jan 4 (INTERFAX)—The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry has refuted allegations about Lithuania deciding to refuse residence permits to several hundred Lithuanian residents, primarily Russian-speakers, and to deport them.

The allegations appeared in some Russian media.

"Such statements of the Russian media are propaganda and do not contribute to development of friendly relations between Lithuania and Russia," the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry said in a statement circulated in Vilnius on Tuesday [3 January].

The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry said that it had sent to the Russian Embassy several notes stating the position of Vilnius on the migration policy.

The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry said that the Lithuanian Interior Ministry granted to foreigners residence permit individually and in accordance with the fixed quotas. "The Lithuanian Interior Ministry has the right to refuse residence permit to foreigners violating Lithuanian legislation," the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry said.

As it was earlier reported, the Lithuanian ambassador in Moscow was invited to the Russian Foreign Ministry on December 30 and was given a message for Vilnius.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said Moscow was seriously concerned over the decision of Vilnius to refuse residence permit to Soviet and Russian servicemen retired after January 1992. The Russian Foreign Ministry said Moscow wanted Vilnius to explain this move.

Slezevicius Satisfied with Belarus Treaty Work

LD0401160795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1459 GMT 4 Jan 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by our diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jan 4 (INTERFAX)—Lithuania and Belarus initialled a treaty on state border on Tuesday [3 January] in the evening, the press service of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry told Interfax.

Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius said on national television today that he was satisfied with the work done for completing and coordinating the treaty on state border with Belarus. He said he believed that this would create conditions for signing a bilateral political treaty in the near future.

The hard talks between Lithuania and Belarus on demarcating their common border, about 720 kilometers long, had been underway for three years. Only by making serious concessions did the state delegations of the two countries manage to settle the issue of the belonging of the border railway stations of Adultiskis and several other issues.

The treaty was initialled by the chief negotiators of the two countries, Secretary of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry Rimantas Sidlauskas and Belarusian Deputy Foreign Minister Stanislav Ogurtsov.

Slezevicius Reviews Economic Work

LD0401201995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1945 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jan 4 (INTERFAX)—The year of 1994 is the first after the restoration of Lithuania's independence not to be marked by a fall in the GDP, Lithuanian Premier Adolfas Slezevicius said.

He said on national radio in Vilnius today that he believed that the total GDP in 1994 was likely to be the same as in 1993. The law on budget stipulated for a 5-percent increase in the GDP in 1995.

Slezevicius said he considered completing privatization in the industry, liberalizing export and the treaty with the EU [European Union] coming into effect on January 1, 1995, as pre-conditions for reaching these goals.

Slezevicius said that privatization for investment cheques must be completed in the first quarter in 1995 (earlier, it was expected to finish in 1994 but the term was extended as some people still have their investment cheques with them).

The Lithuanian government intends to work out and submit for consideration by the parliament draft laws on the second (commercial) stage of privatization when privatization is carried out only for money.

He said an important task was to continue the land reform. Slezevicius said that farmers already owned about a third of agricultural holdings in the country (up to 1.1 million hectares), about 900,000 hectares were given for private gardens (2-3 hectares for a family), 600,000 hectares belonged to agricultural societies. About 1.3 million hectares have to be returned to former owners.

Slezevicius said he believed that real income of Lithuanians would rise by at least 10-15 percent in 1995 comparing to last year (in 1994 the growth in real income of individuals was about 3 percent comparing to 1993). The inflation rate is expected to be about 25 percent in Lithuania next year (comparing to 42-43 percent in 1994).

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Prime Minister's News Conference on Economic Issues

LD0601112795 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The control of inflation last year makes it possible to expect that economic growth will be noticeable in Lithuania this year, Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius said at a news conference on 5 January. He said that preliminary information by the Statistical Department shows that inflation last year reached approximately 44.6 percent and that this figure was 3.5 percent in December.

Slezevicius mentioned the implementation of a favorable trade agreement with Russia as one of the most important elements in the growth of the economy. He expects that this agreement will take effect after his meeting with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin during the second half of January.

One of the government's most important tasks this year is the fulfillment of the budget and, above all, better administration of taxes. Slezevicius expects that payments to the budget will increase this year, and there should not be difficulties such as there were last year.

Slezevicius also announced that the wages of officials at institutions maintained from the budget will be increased an average of 8 percent beginning 1 January. The wages of those employed in the spheres of health care, education, and social insurance will be increased by 10 percent. The new minimum wage will be 85 litas, but it will not be applied to persons employed at institutions maintained from the budget.

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